

WORKING DOCUMENT

**SPANISH-BELGIAN-HUNGARIAN TRIO PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION
2010-2011**

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

GENERAL AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COUNCIL

GENERAL AFFAIRS

INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS / LISBON TREATY

Europe needs the Treaty of Lisbon. The three Presidencies therefore plan to continue the necessary work to ensure that the Treaty can be fully implemented. The implementation of the institutional questions will be enhanced on the basis of the document prepared by the Secretariat General of the Council February 2008. The Trio will monitor the progress made in the implementation of the innovations of the various policy areas under the Lisbon Treaty.

THE POST-2010 LISBON STRATEGY

The revision of the existing **Lisbon Strategy** will be a key priority for the three Presidencies. On the basis of the Commission's Strategic Report on the evaluation of the Lisbon Strategy, the Commission's proposal for the post-2010 strategy, and taking into account in this work the report of the Reflection Group headed by Felipe González as well as the contribution of the European Parliament and the consultative bodies (EESC, CoR), the three Presidencies will establish a framework in order to deliver on the challenges that matter most to Europe's citizens.

In line with the Commission's communication for the Spring European Council 2009 "Driving European recovery" and the European Council conclusions of 18-19 March 2009 and their implementation, the new Strategy will be prepared and launched during the 18 months of our three Presidencies. This focused policy framework will address the future economic, employment, social, environmental challenges and set realistic common targets for the post 2010 Strategy with special attention to growth and jobs.

The revision of the existing Lisbon Strategy will include a review of all aspects of the implementation mechanisms. In order to lead to more coherent and effective policymaking, the revision of the existing Lisbon Strategy will include a review of all aspects of the implementation mechanisms, the involvement of relevant stakeholders in the Lisbon process and of the role of the local and regional level in delivering growth and jobs in accordance with the European Council conclusions of Spring 2008.

Tackling the harsh implications of the economic and social downturns triggered by the financial crisis will be one of the objectives of the new Strategy. The post 2010 Strategy

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should therefore take into account also the results of a first impact assessment of the European and national recovery plans which should be carried out during the Trio Presidency.

The post-2010 Strategy should incorporate the guiding principles of sustainable development inter alia a low carbon economy.

As to **employment**, the emphasis will be put on the adaptation of the European Employment Strategy to the demographic change and the environmental challenge.

Their common objective will be to accomplish the **fully integrated internal market** where the four freedoms are properly ensured with special regard to improve the free movement of workers and services without barriers and furthermore to deliver results on the free movement of knowledge, the achievement of a single market for intellectual property rights, company law and financial services. They will also lay emphasis on consumer's protection and confidence. Better regulation and the improvement of the impact assessment of legislative proposals will be a common goal of the three presidencies. The three Presidencies will examine a possible initiative of the Commission on the services of general interest.

As **R&D&I, education** should continue to play a key role in the post 2010 Lisbon strategy, the common objective will be to deliver results in the development of the European Research Area aiming at the creation of the "Fifth Freedom" and the knowledge triangle, including through the adoption of the future Education and Training Work Programme.

The three Presidencies will work together with the Commission on the ongoing **Single Market review** and on the growing importance of SME's as well as the need for European industrial policy.

Since the **external dimension** has a much larger role to play, the post-2010 Lisbon Strategy should further address the external aspects of competitiveness, recognizing the importance of open markets within the EU and throughout the world and acknowledging competitiveness as an important driver of efficiency, innovation and growth and could deal with the social dimension of globalisation.

The post-2010 Strategy shall respond to the diversity of the EU. The three presidencies will improve coordination of the post-2010 Strategy with the **cohesion policy**. The catching-up of the disadvantaged territorial units and social groups with the EU averages will be an important objective of the three presidencies.

While continuing to focus on a competitive, low-carbon, resource-efficient, sustainable economy, Europe must put greater emphasis on social cohesion, closing the gap between different social groups. One of the basic principles of the European Union is to reduce territorial disparities in economic and social terms. This should remain the cornerstone of any action, with a view to a more prosperous Europe. The three Presidencies will have to reflect on the interdependence between economic, employment, social and environmental policies.

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CLIMATE CHANGE / ENERGY SECURITY

The **fight against climate change** requires the transformation of the present development model into one of low carbon emissions, with a reduction in dependence on fossil fuels; this will increase energy security and contribute to strengthening new areas of economic activity. The necessary mitigation of these emissions and adaptation to climate change are mutually inclusive, and bearing this in mind it is vital to design an appropriate action plan that is coordinated and effective. In this way, actions to cope with climate change present also an opportunity to strengthen the sustainable dimension of sectoral policies, of which the most important are Energy Policy, Transport Policy, R+D+I Policy, Cohesion Policy, Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), as well as, eventually, on migration to the EU, and the resulting financial implications. The EU should also continue its active role in strengthening the international cooperation.

In order to strengthen **energy security** that is a necessary prerequisite for the EU's economic development, efforts for interconnection and diversification of energy suppliers, sources and supply routes must intensify, notably in the gas and the electricity sectors. With a view to addressing supply disruptions further flexible, efficient and transparent crisis response mechanisms for oil and gas supplies should be developed. Energy efficiency is one of the key means towards strengthening energy security; the revision of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan is an important step towards developing energy efficiency. It is vital to identify and remove barriers to investments in interconnection projects, energy efficiency, renewable energies and the sustainable use of fossil fuels. External relations in the energy field play a very important role, Member States should "speak with one voice" on external energy issues in their dialogues with supplier, transit and consumer countries.

EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP AND PROTECTION OF THE EUROPEAN CITIZEN

- Development of systems to oversee coordination in crisis situations outside the territory of the Union.
- Advancement on the minimum levels of consular assistance to be offered to citizens of the Member States outside EU territory.
- Promotion of consular help offered to European citizens throughout the territory of the European Union.
- Promotion of diplomatic assistance in the handling of Rogatory Commissions in third countries.

THE MID-TERM BUDGET REVIEW / NEXT FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVE

Within the preparation of the next financial perspective the three Presidencies will pay priority attention to the EU Budget and Policies review process currently under way taking into consideration the Commission intentions concerning the Midterm budget review. This process constitutes an opportunity to adapt the European budget to the challenges which must

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be addressed by all Member States, and the result of which must be a budget that is driven by common policies and reflects the Union's new challenges. In that context and with a view to preparing the next financial framework, the three Presidencies, in cooperation with the Commission, will put special emphasis on the essential discussions on the future of own resources and EU's Lisbon strategy objectives and spending common policies, such as R&D&I, energy, environment, external assistance, cohesion policy or agriculture energy, environment and R&D&I in line with the provisions of the Treaties, and of the conclusions of the European Council 2005.

Furthermore, the three Presidencies will concentrate their efforts on ensuring that the discussion on EU own resources and expenditures will be held simultaneously, respecting the principles of sufficiency, graduality, equity and solidarity while the balance of reforms and stability in expenditure must be kept.

FUTURE OF COHESION POLICY

Cohesion policy, territorial cohesion and urban development

Cohesion Policy aims at helping reduce disparities between the levels of development of the various regions - thereby laying the ground for the EU balanced and sustainable economic, social and territorial development remains important for the future. At the same time, it is also an important tool to the implementation of the single market and the single currency.

The three Presidencies will strive to develop a wide-ranging and in-depth debate on the areas in which regional policy should be concerned as of 2014. They will provide opportunity to analyse and discuss thoroughly the Strategic Report 2010 and the 5th Cohesion Report.

The presidencies will further the negotiations on the future of the policy with special regard to its structure and the simplification of its rules and procedures.

The Trio will act together in order to evaluate and revise the Territorial Agenda to be adopted in 2011.

Concerning housing policies, the presidencies will focus on the issues of social cohesion, quality of housing and energy efficiency of buildings, especially in urban regeneration programmes¹.

DANUBE STRATEGY

The European Council invited the Commission in June 2009 to present an **EU strategy for the Danube region** before the end of 2010. This initiative corresponds well with the goals of sustainable development, which is a fundamental objective of the European Union. The specific challenges facing particular regions of the EU should be dealt with in an integrated

¹ Further elaboration of this text will be discussed by the Trio Presidency.

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approach, whilst respecting the individual circumstances of each Member State involved. The Strategy should therefore address, avoiding duplications - inter alia - the environmental, transport, socio-economic and cultural development of this region. The external dimension of this Strategy should cover the States participating in the Danube Co-operation process and should be complementary to already existing EU-policies for the region. The trio will pay particular attention to the discussions and the launching of the Strategy.

OUTERMOST REGIONS

The Trio Presidency considers it necessary to develop and apply a **new community strategy for the Outermost Regions**, in accordance with the parameters established in the Commission's Communication of 17 October, 2008; 'The Outermost Regions: an advantage for Europe'. Efforts will be made to facilitate the adoption of proposals by the Commission in order to make such a strategy effective within the framework of the forthcoming Financial Perspectives.

INTEGRATED MARITIME POLICY

The Trio Presidency will continue to work towards the establishment of an **EU integrated maritime policy** in line with the Blue Book.

ENLARGEMENT

The three Presidencies will resolutely promote the renewed consensus on enlargement, as defined by the December 2006 European Council.

The Trio will work to take forward the accession negotiations with Croatia. Provided that those are concluded, the Trio Presidency will be in charge of ensuring the signing and the ratification of the Accession Treaty.

Efforts will be made to create the conditions which will enable more sustained and visible progress in the accession negotiations with **Turkey**. For this aim the advance of reforms in that country will be encouraged.

In line with our full support for the European perspective of the **Western Balkans**, essential for the region's stability, reconciliation and future, the three Presidencies will pay preferential attention to the development of the Stabilisation and Association Process as well as the Thessaloniki Program with a view to a future accession to the EU.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

European Security Strategy

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- Continue to work in the framework of the European Security Strategy, with particular emphasis on new threats such as those associated with climate change, energy security.

ESDP/ Crisis management

The three Presidencies will continue to reinforce ESDP in all its components in order to enhance the role of the Union as a global and autonomous actor in the field of conflict prevention, crisis response, crisis management and post-conflict stabilization with a special focus on civil-military synergy. With a view to improving the effectiveness of crisis management, new ways of cooperation among Member States will be encouraged.

- Special attention will be paid to implementing and reviewing the civilian and military Headline Goals and to enhancing the EU's rapid response capabilities. The role and tasks of the European Defense Agency will be fostered by the Presidencies to stimulate the further development of capabilities.
- The Presidencies will strive to develop close cooperation with UN, NATO, OSCE, the AU and other international and regional organizations. Special attention will go to improving relations with NATO at the political strategic level, including with respect to the development of capabilities.
- The Presidencies will take stock of a decade's progress in the field of crisis prevention, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts (Gothenburg Programme), and will propose further steps on the basis of this stock-taking exercise.
- Priority will be given to improving the planning and operational conduct of both military and civilian operations.
- With due regard to the present difficult financial situation, priority will be given to making sufficient financial means available for the EU's expanding crisis management ambitions.
- The Presidencies will promote the European security and defense culture and will continue to strengthen the European Security and Defense College (ESDC).

Non-proliferation, disarmament

- The three Presidencies will continue to implement the EU Strategy against the proliferation of WMD.
- The EU strategy to combat illicit accumulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition will also be a priority.

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- Give support for negotiations of an Arms Trade Treaty.
- Exploit the potential of international meetings that are scheduled during the trio period such as the NPT review.

Fight against terrorism

- Continue the work on the external aspects of the implementation of the EU's counter-terrorism strategy and the fight against radicalization and recruitment..

Multilateral cooperation

Support the process of UN reform with particular emphasis on enhancing coherence and strengthening the institutional system. Balanced development of the three pillars (peace and security, sustainable development and human rights).

Advancing EU-UN co-operation in the field of peace and security and improving the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping operations will remain of key importance.

Promote initiatives to ensure that EU's financial contribution is properly reflected in the activities of the organization.

European consular cooperation

- The three presidencies wish to advocate an improvement of consular protection of EU-citizens within and outside of the European Union, as far as assistance to and protection of travelers and citizens residing abroad. EU-citizens are in need of more information on their rights within the "Europe for citizens".
- Special attention will be paid to an evaluation of the "lead state" framework and enhanced consular cooperation through 'mutualization' of consular resources. Priority will be given in this respect to training of consular staff in order to improve cooperation in crisis situations and knowledge of EU law.

Human rights and rule of law

- Promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, preservation of their universality. On thematic issues the guidelines should be implemented in a coherent manner.
- Ensuring the human rights mainstreaming in all EU policies, including ESDP, in particular by integrating human rights in political discussions and dialogues with third countries. Particular emphasis will be put on the international prevention of genocide and mass atrocities.

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- Promotion of the Rule of Law is a key objective for the EU. Fighting impunity must therefore remain high on the agenda, with the accent put on the instrumental role of the states.
- Keep the abolition of the death penalty on the international agenda.

EFTA and Switzerland

- Further develop the cooperation with the three EEA countries.
- Intensify cooperation with Switzerland, possibly through conclusion of a new framework agreement.

Western Balkans

- Further advance the European integration of the countries of the Western Balkans in the framework of the Stabilization and Association Process, in line with the Thessaloniki Agenda and the renewed consensus on enlargement of December 2006.
- To that end, the EU will further assist the political, economic and institutional reform processes in the countries of the Western Balkans.
- Pay special attention to the implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreements concluded with WB countries, as well as the implementation of the visa liberalization's road-maps. Membership applications will be followed up, in accordance with the relevant council decisions.
- Encourage regional cooperation in the Western Balkans.

Neighborhood : Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean

Further promoting the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) as a single and coherent policy framework, paying equal attention to its eastern dimension and its southern dimension.

- Regarding the Eastern dimension of the ENP, work towards the implementation of the Eastern Partnership by promoting political association and further economic integration of Eastern partner countries. Take forward the negotiation on new contractual relationship with Ukraine and possibly Moldova and other partners. Further steps to be taken towards visa liberalization, on a case by case basis, as a long term goal provided that conditions for well managed and secure mobility are in place.

Pursuing the process of negotiating deep and comprehensive free trade agreements with partners that are members of the WTO and ready to comply with their commitments.

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A second Summit of the Eastern Partnership will be held in the first half of 2011. Work on the implementation of the Eastern Partnership through concrete projects proposals in support of internal reforms developed by the thematic platforms in 2009 in order to bring these countries closer to the EU.

- Reinvigorate the UfM by organizing the 2nd UfM Summit in the first half of 2010, adopting the first UfM Action Plan 2010-2012 and by implementing its decisions. Assure the effective and efficient work of the Permanent Joint Secretariat.

On the bilateral track develop works to enhance bilateral frameworks of relations with Morocco, Israel, Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan and agreements with Syria and Libya. Promote the further implementation of the ENP Action Plans and prepare the new instruments designed to succeed the current Action Plans, where appropriate. Organize an EU-Morocco Summit in first semester 2010.

Focus on ensuring a project-oriented approach, energy security, environmental protection and water management being the priority areas of activity.

Endeavour to achieve progress in all aspects of the political and security dimension, including through dialogue and cooperation with the Mediterranean partners in the area of ESDP.

Support within the framework of the ENP, the implementation, and where appropriate, the renewal of the Action Plans. In this connection, particular emphasis will be given to the various bodies established under the Association and Cooperation Agreements, ensuring progress and follow-up of their implementation.

- The Presidencies will further implement the **European regional strategies**, such as the Northern Dimension, the Black Sea Synergy. Complementarity with the ENP and other regional EU initiatives will be ensured.

Relations with Russia

- Further develop the strategic partnership with Russia, concentrating on new contractual agreements and the implementation of the road maps for the four common spaces. Assure coherence and continuity among the three semester Summits to be held with Russia.

Central Asia

- Pursue the implementation of the EU strategy with Central Asia. Examine demands for strengthening cooperation with countries in Central Asia.

Middle East

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- To contribute to a peaceful and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict.
- Ensure that the EU plays an active role in the region
- The three presidencies will work towards enhanced relations with the countries of the region.
- Take forward the negotiations on a Cooperation and Trade agreement with Iraq and conclude the FTA with the Gulf Cooperation Council.
- Seek to contribute to a long-term negotiated solution to the nuclear issue as part of a broader agenda with Iran.

Transatlantic relations

- The three presidencies will continue to work on strengthening the EU-US strategic partnership. A renewed political agenda will include enhanced dialogue and possible joint action in areas such as regional issues, non proliferation and disarmament, and European security.
- The three presidencies will also focus on important multilateral issues such as climate change, energy, economic and financial crisis, crisis management, development cooperation.
- Work on enhanced transatlantic cooperation in the field of freedom, security and justice and counter-terrorism.
- Regarding Canada, work on the new horizontal economic agreement.

Africa

- Focus on implementation of the EU-Africa Strategy and the Action Plan.
- Co-organize the third EU-Africa Summit during the second semester of 2010.
- Promote peace and security on the continent by supporting crisis prevention, stabilization and reconciliation processes. Cooperate with the African Union to enable it to play a major role in conflict prevention and resolution on the continent
- Monitor in particular developments in crisis-prone areas such as the Great Lakes Region, the Sahel Region and the Horn of Africa (in particular Sudan and Somalia), and engage in stabilization and conflict resolution efforts with regional and international partners.

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Asia

- Use ASEM8 Summit to be held in the second half of 2010 as an opportunity to promote the political and economic objectives of the EU and to further intensify the relations with Asia.
- Take forward the negotiations of new contractual relations with China, South Korea, India, ASEAN and individual ASEAN countries.
- Continue the efforts aimed at broadening economic relations and strengthening political contacts with China.
- Closely monitor developments on the Korean Peninsula, to promote stability.
- Follow actively developments in Myanmar/Burma and support regional and UN's efforts aimed at helping the transition to democracy.
- Remain actively engaged in Afghanistan and Pakistan, pursuing the implementation of the existing strategies vis-à-vis these two countries taking into account the regional dimension.

Latin America and the Caribbean

- Organize the 6th EU-LAC Summit that will take place in the first half of 2010 and ensure the follow-up of its results especially the Action Plan and the setting up of the EU-LAC Foundation. In the margin of the bi-regional summit, organize the regular Summits with Chile, Central America, Andean Community and Mercosur.
- Take forward the negotiations of the cooperation agreement with Mercosur. Conclude negotiations and sign the agreements with Central America and the Andean Community or with some of its member countries.
- Work on the follow-up of the Strategic Partnerships and Action plans concluded with Mexico and Brazil, organize the Summits (with Brazil second semester 2010 and the first Troika Summit with Mexico first semester 2010).

Development and cooperation

- Need to maintain commitments on official development assistance and other commitments made at Monterrey and Doha meetings.
 - Monitor closely compliance with EU's ODA commitments.
 - Special attention to be paid to the needs of Least Developed Countries and continue to support all developing countries, including both low-income and middle-income countries, to achieve a more balanced global development.

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- Special attention to measures aiming at mobilising domestic resources in developing countries, including fight against tax evasion.
- Need to promote aid effectiveness, as agreed in the Accra Agenda for Action and with a view to the High level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Seoul 2011).
 - Active implementation by the EU (in line with Council conclusions of May 18, 2009 on supporting developing countries in coping with crises), with particular emphasis on division of labour and other commitments.
 - Need to take into account the specificity of countries in fragile situations.
- Need to monitor and act upon the achievement of the MDG's. Spain, Belgium and Hungary will closely collaborate on preparing the High Level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly (September 2010) to mark the 10th anniversary of the Millennium Declaration. Special attention will be devoted to the following sectors :
 - Food security and fight against hunger and poverty : initiative of the Trio to raise the profile of productive rural development and sustainable management of water;
 - Health : strengthening health systems will also be a priority for the Trio
 - Gender : support to the preparation by the Commission of an EU Gender equality and woman Empowerment Action plan for European development policies.
 - Environment : follow up and contribution to the implementation of the European Union commitments to be formalized during the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Copenhagen late 2009).
- With respect to relations with ACP (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific) countries :
 - Support to the conclusion of the second revision of the Cotonou Agreement
 - Support to conclusion and follow-up of the Economic Partnership Agreements guaranteeing regional integration and development for ACP countries.
 - Importance of accompanying measures to support the EPA implementation and regional integration, such as the Aid for Trade packages.
- Commitment to work together to ensure that the EU-Africa Summit to be held under the Belgian Presidency is successful and to push forward the Joint Strategic Partnership between the two regions and the corresponding Action Plans.
- Commitment to work together to ensure that the European Union – Latin America and the Caribbean Summit and the Second Eastern Partnership Summit are a success.
- Commitment of the Trio to promote a strengthened transatlantic partnership on development cooperation.

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- Commitment of the Trio to promote awareness among European citizens of the need to maintain solidarity efforts with poor countries, which suffer more severely from the consequences of the current economic situation.

Trade Policy

The first global economic contraction for over 50 years has fundamentally changed the operating environment of the Union's trade policy. Hence, the first priority of the Trio Presidency of the EU will be to react strongly and swiftly to this situation by making the case for openness and engagement rather than isolation and retreat and to assure that the EU continues to play a leading role in the international reaction to the financial and economic crisis.

In the field of European trade policy, the multilateral dimension will continue to be a fundamental axis. Therefore, to bring the Doha Round to an ambitious, balanced and comprehensive conclusion will be a priority.

Besides working for the conclusion or launching of the different bilateral and regional trade agreements mentioned above, further reflection will be necessary on the Union's trade relationships with developed countries and in general. A stronger focus on the use of such instruments as regulatory cooperation and early-warning systems in the context of disputes will be considered.

In the frame of the EU Market Access Strategy, the three Presidencies will encourage and support initiatives that favour access of exports of goods and services from European companies, particularly SME, to the markets of third countries through all available instruments. Concerted actions to remove non-tariff barriers, to open up government procurement markets and to increase protection for intellectual property rights are of particular importance.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (ECOFIN)

1. A first orientation for the Trio priorities could be as follows:

1.1. Economic policy coordination

- Follow up of the European Economic Recovery Plan, including financial rescue plans, budgetary policies and structural reforms. Special attention should be paid to economic policy coordination, to generate synergies, minimize distortions to the Single Market and ensure an adequate level-playing field.
- Assessment of the implementation of the SGP on the basis of past experience. In applying the SGP, the Presidencies will focus on exit strategies, to ensure consistency between short term measures and public finance sustainability. Quality of public finance and CPE work in this field will remain a priority for the Trio, on the basis of the work undertaken by the Swedish Presidency and including preferences for various aspects of the Trio.

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1.2. Single Market

Strategic market reforms will be considered as a key driver for recovery. In particular, following the transposition of the Services Directive (the process should be accomplished by the end of 2009), the Trio will encourage an assessment of the implementation process and, if needed, further initiatives aiming at removing remaining obstacles to trade in services.

1.3. Lisbon strategy and Integrated Guidelines

The renewal of the Lisbon strategy is a comprehensive task involving and stretching over the three presidencies of our Trio. The renewed Strategy should be built upon the assessment of the current Lisbon Strategy, and should take into account the consequences of and the challenges related to the current global financial and economic crises and serve the longer term objectives of the Community

1.4. Financial markets and services

- Financial crisis: coordination of financial sector support packages and exit strategies.
- Follow up of the programme for financial markets reform and financial services. New Financial Services Action Plan (2010-2015).
- Possible legislative proposals :
 - o EU supervisory framework and the Larosière report (macro and micro prudential supervision) and supervisory rules.
 - o Review the Directive on Capital Adequacy of Investment Firms and Credit Institutions (several initiatives).
 - o Early Intervention.
 - o Measures to reinforce bank depositors, investors and insurance policy holder protection (including deposit guarantee schemes)
 - o Regulation and supervision standards for Hedge Funds Private Equity and others market players (Note: it is possible that this file could be closed during the Swedish presidency)
 - o Review the Market Abuse Directive
 - o Transparency of Derivate Markets.
 - o Retail Finance Services and Financial Literacy
 - o Directive on Remuneration in the Financial Services Sector (likely included in the

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capital requirements Directives).

- Directive on Prospectus, Financial conglomerates and others
- Post trading: industry related barriers on cross-border clearing and settlement of security transactions (Giovannini barriers) on the basis of existing Ecofin Conclusions. Legislative proposal on common rules on securities holding and transaction in the EU

(As the reform agenda is extremely ambitious and all initiatives and legislative proposals can not be tackled at the same time, a priority order should be set up with the Commission).

1.5. EU budget

- EU Budget review. (The Trio will continue the work on this issue, after the presentation of the Commission's White Paper).
- Revision of the Financial Regulation: (depending on the date of the COM proposal, this regulation will be negotiated during Spanish or Belgian Presidency).
- Preparation for the next financial perspective (preparation may start under the Hungarian Presidency).
- Multiannual Financial Framework Regulation and other issues related to the new budgetary procedure under the Lisbon Treaty: (depending on the date of COM proposal, the MFF Regulation will be negotiated during the Trio Presidency by the appropriate Council formation).
- Examination of the "own resources" decision on the basis of a report by the Commission

1.6. International side

- Follow up of agreement on climate change (Copenhagen UNFCCC Conference).
- EIB external mandate Mid Term Review starting April 2010, co-decision procedure, follow-up by Belgian presidency.
- G20: need to coordinate ex ante EU positions and follow up of decisions including on IMF reform.
- Asem Finance Ministerial and Deputies under Spanish presidency. Co-ordination of possible deputies meeting under Hungarian presidency.
- Euro-Med Partnership: Follow-up of the Union for the Mediterranean priority. Spanish interest in hosting FEMIP Ministerial meeting; (timing of meetings to be further clarified).

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- Eastern neighbourhood : focus of Hungarian presidency
- Dialogue with EFTA: likely during Spanish presidency.

1.7. Taxation

- Taxation on gambling and betting [to be confirmed after further consultations with the Commission].

Direct taxation

- Directive 2003/48/CE on revenues from savings
- Code of conduct
- Fiscal treatment of losses in cross border situation (communication)
- Abuses in the field of direct taxation (communication).

Indirect taxation

Excises

- Proposal to modify directive 2003/96 on taxation of energy products and electricity.

VAT

- Financial and insurance services
- Fiscal fraud amendments on Directive 112/2006/EC: introduction of joint and several liability.
- Green product and services, provided the Commission presents a proposal.
- Travel agencies
- Postal services
- Enlargement of single entry point
- Invoicing

Mutual assistance

- Directive on administrative cooperation

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- Directive concerning mutual assistance for the recovery of claims to taxes.
- EUROFISC

1.8 Customs

- Negotiations in WHO on tobacco
- Reinforcement of the supply chain
- Action plan for community customs 2009-2010 (intellectual property rights)
- Adoption of Council conclusions on customs controls (based on the commission report stipulated by the Council conclusions on the strategy to follow for the development of the Customs Union.

2.9. Statistics

The trio will promote the implementation of the European Code of Practice, in particular, the quality improvement, reliability and transparency of the statistical production.

Following the Council objective of reducing up to 25% the administrative burden of the enterprises for 2012, the trio will encourage policies with the objective to reduce the burden on the respondents and improve the cost-benefit balance, while meeting the statistical information requests from statistical users. To achieve this goal, such policies should be focused in the increase of the use of information and communication technologies tools. In this line, it is specially relevant the promotion of enterprises data collection systems based on standards that automated the extraction of statistical data from the management systems (XBRL and its development), and to give impetus to the use of electronic exchange systems for statistical data and complementary information in order to improve the automated treatment by users and institutions (SDMX and its development).

Finally, the facilitation of the electronic exchange of statistical data should be accompanied by the implementation of a renewed legal framework concerning statistical confidentiality and by the development of new methodological and technological solutions regarding the control of statistical disclosure control, as well as accessibility of statistical data by the general public and the research community.

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

(The final content of the Stockholm Program and its Action Plan may require a thorough revision of this chapter.)

The Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian Presidencies take over their responsibilities at a crucial stage for the development of the area of Freedom, Security and Justice. They will foster the

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adoption and initial implementation of the post-Hague JHA multi-annual work programme and, subject to the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, they will put into effect its relevant provisions.

In this context, the three Presidencies are determined to promote the development of a European Area of Freedom, Security and Justice based on the rule of law with respect to the fundamental rights and where citizens may enjoy the highest possible level of protection and a fair and simple access to justice.

To this end, they will continue to deepen the freedom of movement within Schengen space while reinforcing the fight against illegal immigration. They shall focus on strengthening EU relationships with key countries of origin and transit of migration flows, as its collaboration is essential to consolidate a sustainable and balanced migration system in the framework of the Global Approach to Migration.

They are likewise committed to improving the fight against terrorism and serious and organized crime in full compliance with the rule of law and protection of fundamental rights, while enhancing the assistance to the victims of crime and the crime prevention. The development of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice requires a concerted global structure covering the existing and forthcoming instruments. To this aim, the three Presidencies will explore the possibilities of developing a EU sustainable strategy on internal security.

They will devote their efforts to enlarge the channels through which citizens may exercise their rights surmounting the obstacles derived from the differences among legal systems and national practices. They will make every endeavour to improve the quality of the administration of justice as a public service at a European scale. Conscious of the importance of the external dimension of the JHA policies the three Presidencies will seek significant progress in judicial cooperation with third countries, especially with strategic partners.

The Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian Presidencies will develop their actions with a view of achieving the following general objectives:

- a Justice at the service of the citizens' rights,
- a more modern and efficient Justice Administration,
- a better equipped Justice to protect the citizens and to fight against crime,

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Immigration and asylum

The three Presidencies will work on the immigration and asylum issues in the framework of the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum and in the continuity of the Global Approach to Migration.

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In this context, the Trio Presidencies will look after the accomplishment of the monitoring process established in the Pact, promoting all the necessary activities for the annual debate of this Pact which will start under the Spanish Presidency in the first half of 2010.

Legal immigration

The three Presidencies will promote the facilitation of well-managed legal migration and, based on the needs of the labour markets of destination, will promote an effective matching of labour market demand with supply as well as synergies between migration and development.

They will work in the follow-up and on the evaluation of existing directives, paying special attention to the implementation of the Blue Card and Single Permit Directives. They will also continue the discussions on the remaining three legal instruments included in the Policy Plan on Legal Migration: conditions of entry and residence for seasonal workers, for intra-corporate transferees, and for remunerated trainees. New proposals for regulating legal migration can be studied.

Finally, revocation of the transitional periods limiting the free movement of workers from the new Member States will be tried to be achieved.

Integration of Third Country Nationals

The three Presidencies will develop two new instruments: the identification of indicators that can be used for the evaluation of outcomes of integration policies and hence for comparative learning, and European Modules, which can be used as a flexible reference for introduction programmes, involvement of the host society, participation of immigrants and other aspects of the integration process.

Furthermore, special attention will be given to measures required in the field of education, vocational training, recognition of qualification and competences, and active labour market policies. Active participation of migrants in all spheres of society will also be promoted and assessed through adequate statistical tools.

A special attention will also be given to the issue of unaccompanied minors, which needs to be addressed through actions based on a global approach, comprising preventive measures in the country of origin, protection measures and return to their families or national protection institutions in the country of origin.

Illegal immigration

The Three Presidencies will continue to keep the commitment of the EU in the fight against illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings. They will pay special attention to the fight against the employment of illegally staying migrants.

WORKING DOCUMENT

Special attention will be given to efficient and sustainable return and readmission policies with full respect for human rights. The Three Presidencies will continue to support Community Action in this field. The importance of an effective readmission policy with the main countries of origin or transit, including the implementation of the existing EC readmission agreements, will be underlined and evaluation mechanisms will be envisaged. Efficient practical and operational cooperation between Member States, EU Institutions and FRONTEX will also be reinforced.

The role of Immigration Liaison Officers and the possibilities to reinforce the operational cooperation will be strengthened.

Border management

The Three Presidencies will work in further developing of the EU integrated border management, promoting active collaboration between the Member States, FRONTEX and the relevant EU agencies and bodies.

New ways of maximizing the effectiveness of the existing EU instruments will be explored in order to reinforce operational cooperation.

The Trio will also continue to develop the current border control model to the new technologies in this field. EUROSUR deployment and other strategic initiatives and instruments to enhance the efficiency of border control and surveillance will be dealt with.

Moreover, the three Presidencies will continue to strengthen the role of FRONTEX and to improve the effectiveness of its operational actions and technical challenges.

Finally, the Trio Presidency will pave the way to a common strategy covering capacity building, technical assistance and cooperation mechanisms with origin and transit countries.

Visa policy

The Three Presidencies will promote the deployment of the Visa Information System (VIS).

Following the adoption of the Community Code on Visas the Trio Presidency will seek to stimulate the Local Consular Cooperation and to contribute to the best implementation of it.

Furthermore, the Trio Presidency will support the introduction of new and the development of existing methods of co-operation among Member States and gradual involvement of new technologies in the field of visa policies. They will seek to move further in the harmonisation of the application of the Visa Instructions, paying special attention to the setting up of Common Visa Application Centres.

The evaluation of the Visa Facilitation Agreements will be considered as a priority as well.

Schengen area and acquis

WORKING DOCUMENT

The three Presidencies are committed to further develop the Schengen Area, simultaneously increasing the security inside of it and allow more and more European citizens to profit of the benefits of free movement without border checks, by the accession Bulgaria and Romania and eventually other Member States to the Area. The completion and successful launch of the new generation of the Schengen Information System are indispensable in this respect. Work on consolidation and development of the Schengen Acquis should be continued. Work on improvement of the Schengen Evaluation procedure should be continued.

International protection

The Trio Presidency will work towards the implementation of the second phase of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), which should ensure access to asylum procedures and offer a high level of protection to those in need of it.

Aiming to complete the establishment of a common area of protection, the Three Presidencies will, among the legislative proposals included in the European Commission's Policy Plan on Asylum, put emphasis on reinforcing practical cooperation and providing for a single procedure based on common rules along with establishing uniform statuses for refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection.

Solidarity being one of the pillars of the CEAS, the Trio Presidency calls for an intensification of EU solidarity towards third countries as well as among Member States.

Cooperation with third countries in the framework of the EU Global Approach

The Global Approach to Migration offers the possibility for new forms of dialogue and cooperation with third countries in this field. The Trio presidency will continue to seek effective and balanced implementation and further development of its three components, through its various tools.

In this context the Trio presidency will continue to implement the Global Approach to the South and to the East and the South-East of the European Union. Specific attention will also be given to pursuing an enhanced, structured and comprehensive dialogue with the Latin America and Caribbean region on migratory issues.

Internal Security Strategy

The three Presidencies will aim to work out a multidimensional EU sustainable strategy on internal security that clearly reflects the state of play and future challenges and strategy of the EU in this field. They are convinced of the necessity to further develop the so-called European Criminal Intelligence Model (ECIM).

Fight against terrorism

WORKING DOCUMENT

The fight against terrorism remains a top priority for the EU and will be high on the agenda of the three Presidencies.

The main focus will be on the further implementation of the EU Strategy and Action Plan to Combat Terrorism. The three Presidencies will aim to further develop the multidisciplinary response to terrorism, the operational co-operation between the law enforcement authorities of the Member States, the co-operation with European agencies like Europol and Eurojust and the co-operation with key third countries. Specific attention will be paid to the phenomena of radicalisation and recruitment. The EU Strategy and Action Plan on Radicalisation and Recruitment will continue to be directional in this regard. The three Presidencies will focus in first instance on the prevention of terrorism and the detection of terrorists at an early stage.

The three Presidencies will also focus on combating terrorist use of the Internet, on enhancing the security of explosives, on CBRN threats and risks and on the co-operation between the central bodies in the Member States which are responsible for co-ordinating the exchange and analysis of information and intelligence on terrorism.

Fight against serious and organised crime

The fight against serious and organised crime requires a multidisciplinary, intelligence-led approach in order to face this global phenomenon and provide much more effective and long-term results.

The three presidencies will promote the added value of the OCTA and explore the further development of its regional approach.

The three Presidencies will continue to implement the Concerted Work Strategy and the Practical Measures against Cybercrime. Special attention will be paid to combat any form of sexual abuse of children on the Internet.

Attention should be paid to research and academic contributions in the field of the fight against organised crime. A reflection on the new socio-economic spheres where organised crime has gained influence with deep impact on the everyday life of our citizens will be launched. Identification and recovery of criminal assets and the fight against money laundering will remain a key priority.

Fight against trafficking in human beings

The fight against trafficking in human beings will also remain an important priority.

On the basis of the results of the evaluation of the EU Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings, new orientations for action will be delivered. The three Presidencies' aim is to mainly focus on all forms of exploitation and to pay special attention to highly vulnerable victims.

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Fight against Drugs

The EU Action Plan on Drugs for 2009-2012 will be further implemented.

The three Presidencies reiterate the importance of a multidisciplinary, comprehensive and well-balanced approach, focusing on prevention as well as on the fight against precursors and the illicit production and trafficking of drugs. The same approach will apply to the co-operation with key third countries.

The three Presidencies will explore new possibilities for a more effective and co-ordinated law enforcement co-operation with a view to fight against drugs trafficking.

Police and Customs cooperation

The three Presidencies will seek to deepen the operational co-operation between the law enforcement authorities in the EU and with European agencies like Europol.

The efforts of Europol for a smooth adaptation of its working methods to its new legal framework will be fully supported.

The three Presidencies will explore the possibilities for enhancing the current EU legal framework for law enforcement co-operation, especially for co-operation in the border regions. The development of the practical co-operation on the basis of the Prüm Decisions will be promoted in this regard.

Experiences and best practices in working with Police and Customs Co-operation Centres should be further exchanged and minimal standards for their functioning have to be developed.

The three Presidencies will seek to enhance the interoperability between law enforcement radio communication systems.

Maximum benefit will be drawn out of the European Network for Internal Security Technology Departments.

In the field of security at football matches with an international dimension, the three Presidencies will evaluate the current working program and will prepare a new working program for 2011-2013.

The three Presidencies will enhance the co-operation between the authorities responsible for the private security sector in the Member States.

Measures to improve the co-operation with regard to the protection of public figures will also be envisaged.

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Specific attention will be given to the evaluation of the common use of liaison officers and the identification of best practices. Existing networks of European liaison officers should be strengthened and new geographic areas for setting up such networks should be considered. The co-ordination among liaison officers deployed outside the Union, their deploying Member States and European actors, such as Europol, should be improved.

The three Presidencies will continue to implement the Concerted Work Strategy and the Practical Measures against Cybercrime. Special attention will be paid to combating any form of sexual abuse of children on the Internet.

The three Presidencies will pay attention to identity fraud. In this regard initiatives will be launched with regard to the verification of the authenticity of identity documents at European level.

Cepol continues to be an essential tool in promoting joint training and a common European police culture. The three Presidencies will focus on the efficient functioning of the organisation and on its core-business. On the basis of the results of the audits and the evaluation of Cepol new measures could be proposed. The three Presidencies will also reflect on the co-operation and co-ordination between Cepol, Europol and Frontex in the field of training.

Finally the three Presidencies will continue to implement the EU Strategy for Customs Co-operation in the third pillar, by putting forward a new Customs Co-operation Action Plan.

Crime Prevention

The three Presidencies are committed to continue the co-operation in the field of crime prevention.

Special attention will be paid to prevent and fight against gender-based violence as well as to introduce and promote methods of non-violent conflict management to prevent violence and/or restore relationships. Moreover, methods will be elaborated which can effectively be used by the local authorities to prevent and fight against burglary.

Exchange of information

The three Presidencies will continue to develop a global and coherent long-term EU policy on law enforcement information exchange, while fully respecting data protection. Efforts will be made in order to come to a more efficient use of the current law enforcement information systems, in order to avoid overlaps and in order to optimise costs and potentials for the final users.

The three Presidencies will seek to launch and implement an operational SIS II – the main information system for police co-operation at EU level – within the given time schedule.

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Continued attention will also be given to the practical implementation of the so-called Swedish Framework Decision and to the implementation of the Prüm Decisions, with a view to starting with the EU-wide automated sharing of data, at the latest in August 2011.

Civil protection

The three Presidencies wish to continue the work on improving EU response capacities in the face of disasters and crises, both within EU-borders as well as in third countries and with a sufficient balance between prevention, preparedness and response.

In this respect, the three Presidencies will follow up on the Commission Communication on Reinforcing the Union's Disaster Response Capacity and the Commission Communication on a community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters

All initiatives regarding training will be pursued thoroughly and particular attention will be dedicated to the implementation and development of the Civil Protection Modules and to the reinforcement of the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) within the Civil Protection Mechanism framework. The three Presidencies will also carry out work with regard to prevention.

In addition, the Presidency will pay specific attention to the evaluation of the Civil Protection Mechanism and Financial Instrument, which will start during the Presidency Trio.

Further improving the cooperation with the United Nations will be continued. The progress of the elements of the European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP) will be followed-up during the three Presidencies. And finally, special consideration will be given to CBRN-related risks and forest fires prevention.

Other issues

Enhance multidisciplinary action for the improvement of road safety throughout the Union, also by the means of law-enforcement cooperation.

JUSTICE COOPERATION

Horizontal matters

Regarding the **horizontal issues in the field of justice**, the three Presidencies will put a particular accent on the protection and promotion of **fundamental rights**, the protection of personal data, **E-Justice and the training of judges, prosecutors and judicial staff**.

The promotion of **fundamental rights** and liberties within the EU and in its external relations represents a hallmark of the Union. The three Presidencies will contribute to this aim by promoting a close cooperation with the European Parliament and the Commission.

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The Three Presidencies will also strive to improve the cooperation mechanisms between the Fundamental Rights Agency and the EU Institutions.

The EU should develop a proactive and consistent approach on the **protection of personal data**, in particular when developing a global strategy on information systems in the field of internal security.

Convinced that a full use of the information and communication technologies in the field of justice is essential, the three Presidencies are determined to push forward the projects included in the **E-Justice** Action Plan 2009-2013 and, taking into account its open nature, may launch additional ones. An assessment of the implementation structure's activities should take place before June 2011. Projects such as the interconnection of registers of wills and the training of legal practitioners (e.g. through e-learning) should consequently be launched. Work should start on the signature and notification of judicial and extrajudicial decisions in civil and commercial matters, on legal aid, on the European order for payment as well as on the small claims procedure. Furthermore, attention will also be paid to the horizontal issue of translation and interpretation.

The three presidencies will encourage the implementation of the general guidelines as accepted by the Member States in the resolution concerning the **training of judges, prosecutors and staff of the Administration of Justice**. In particular, the three Presidencies aim at developing efficient cooperation between the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) and the relevant national training centres.

The **financial crisis** has showed the need to respond efficiently to abuses. In this respect, the three Presidencies are ready to explore appropriate legal answers, including the resort to criminal law, to these new challenges.

Criminal matters

In Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters, the three Presidencies will dedicate their efforts to the further development of the application of the principle of mutual recognition, the exchange of information on criminal records, the approximation of procedural law, the cooperation between judicial authorities concerning conducting of proceedings, the protection of the vulnerable persons and assistance to victims.

Mutual Recognition

The three Presidencies will work with a view to developing further the principle of mutual recognition. They will pay particular attention to the improvement of direct judicial cooperation, in particular, exploring the options of reinforcing the application of the principle of mutual recognition in the field of evidences in criminal proceedings, exploring the feasibility of achieving a general instrument replacing the European evidence warrant (possibly called "European Investigation Order") or accepting the evidences gathered in another member State.

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In parallel the three Presidencies will work on the improvement of the implementation, evaluation and follow-up of the instruments adopted so far.

Exchange of information on criminal records

The exchange of information on criminal records should be completed by establishing a European Index of convicted third country nationals. The Trio will also explore the possibilities of exchanging information on supervisory measures adopted in ongoing criminal proceedings and on non final judgments.

Approximation of procedural law

The three Presidencies are aware of the existing possibilities to move forward in the field of approximation of procedural law, key element for increasing mutual trust and facilitating mutual recognition. Work should be focused on improving the legal framework on that side, especially by:

- adopting a legal instrument in view of setting common minimum standards as to procedural rights and guarantees for individuals in criminal proceedings;
- updating the Council Framework Decision of 15 March 2001 on the standing of victims in criminal proceedings (2001/220/JHA).

Cooperation between judicial authorities concerning conducting of proceedings

The criminal justice systems are increasingly confronted with situations where several Member States have criminal jurisdiction to prosecute the same facts relating to the commission of criminal offences. Multiple prosecutions can lead to duplication of activities. The three Presidencies will work on a new legal framework to allow the transfer of criminal proceedings to the Member State of nationality or of residence of the offender, if needed by establishing new extra-territorial jurisdiction for the State of nationality or of residence

Protection of children

The legal framework set up for the protection of children within the EU can be improved. The three Presidencies will, therefore, complete the existing legal framework and launch an Action Plan against sexual exploitation of children and child pornography.

Assistance to victims

Emphasis should be put on the assistance to victims, inter alia, victims of terrorism as well as victims of gender-based and domestic violence. To this aim, Trio need a European legal framework, in particular to remove any obstacle to an effective implementation of protection measures in the whole territory of the EU, so that victims under threat receive the necessary protection regardless of their Member State of residence (possibly through a European protection order).

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Civil matters

The three presidencies will pay much attention to the area of judicial cooperation in civil matters as Community instruments in this field directly affect the everyday life of hundreds of thousands of EU citizens.

In civil justice the three Presidencies will concentrate their efforts on the further development of the application of the principle of mutual recognition, the harmonization of rules on conflicts of jurisdiction and laws and on improving cross-border enforcement of judicial decisions.

Mutual recognition

Work should continue to further develop the principle of mutual recognition. In this context the revision of Regulation 44/2001/EC should be a priority, with special regard to the abolishment of exequatur for the judgments in civil and commercial matters.

Harmonization of rules on conflicts of jurisdiction and laws

Work on the harmonization of rules on conflicts of jurisdiction and laws should be carried on. In this context the discussions on the Regulation on succession and wills should be conducted.

Progress towards the adoption of a Regulation relating to matrimonial property regimes and all the necessary efforts to reach a satisfactory solution with regards to the future Regulation on applicable law and jurisdiction on divorce matters should be made.

Improving cross-border enforcement of judicial decisions

The Presidencies will work on improving the enforcement of the judgements given in a Member State in another one, in particular through an analysis of mechanisms for the attachment of bank accounts.

External relations in JHA

The three Presidencies will aim at fostering the external dimension of the area of Freedom, Security and Justice, in line with an updated JHA External Relations Strategy.

As far as **thematic priorities** are concerned, the three Presidencies are committed to carry on the efforts of the previous Presidencies in the field of immigration, counter-terrorism, the fight against organized crime, criminal and civil judicial cooperation and the strengthening and protection of fundamental rights. The cooperation between Europol, Eurojust and third countries will also be strengthened.

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Regarding the **geographical priorities**, a particular attention will be paid to the cooperation with candidate countries, Western Balkan countries and countries participating into the European Neighbourhood Policy and in the Eastern Partnership.

The EU-US strategic dialogue, our partnership with Russia, the dialogue and cooperation with Africa, the enhanced, structured and comprehensive dialogue with the Latin America and Caribbean region, as well as the cooperation with Asian countries remain priorities for the three presidencies.

The three Presidencies will seek to enhance coordination of the EU position within all international organisations.

COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL

Internal Market

- **Single market review:** the three Presidencies will work together on the ongoing Single Market Review aimed at promoting the free movement of the four freedoms. Making use of the potential of the internal market is an essential tool for the recovery of economic growth for the benefit of both businesses and consumers.
- **Services Directive:** The implementation of the Services Directive is a key element in completion of internal market in services as well as improving competitiveness across Europe. The deadline for adopting the implementing legislation by Member States being 28 December 2009, the Trio Presidency is committed to play a key role in coordinating the mutual evaluation process provided for in article 39. and assessing the results, on the basis of the Commission's summary report due by 28 December 2010 according to paragraph (4) of article 39 will be a priority for trio Presidency including adoption of a Council Conclusion on the progress made, and on the Commission's report.
- **Better Regulation:** Reduction of Administrative Burdens: the improvement of the regulatory environment in Europe is a pivotal objective of the renewed Strategy of Lisbon. There is a need to pursue efforts in order to guarantee the achievement of the objective that have been set by the Council in this respect: a 25% reduction of administrative burdens that European enterprises have to face in 2012. Besides this an extended use of impact assessments in decision-making should be reinforced and the trio presidency is committed to reach a significant improvement in this field, building on the present good practices followed by the Commission. Regarding the area of simplification the three Presidencies agree on the importance of the improvement of the current simplification programme. During this period the trio Presidency will also support the exchange of experience and best practice examples in the public administration systems of EU countries, especially as regards methods, means and ways of reducing administrative burdens at national level.
Evaluating the effects of Common commencement dates and possibilities to further extend its application.

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In the same sense, the three Presidencies will submit to the Council a Progress Report, complementary to the Fourth Strategic Report of the Commission on the Program “Better Regulation”.

- **Impact assessment of new initiatives:** Evaluation of the progress in and further guidance to IA as part of working culture in both community and member states levels. At the same time evaluation and new initiatives for strengthening the consultation process should be carried out, and policy formation should become more evidence based.
- **E-government for decreasing administrative burdens on enterprises,** citizens and public institutions, broadening one-stop-shop services and realizing the only once principle
- **Competition:** At the end of 2009, the European Commission will issue a legislative proposal arising from the “White Paper on damages actions for breach of the EC antitrust rules”. The most substantive negotiating effort of this initiative will take place within the first semester of 2010. The possible revision of the Regulation 1/2003 would be carried out under the ES-BE-HU Presidency.
- **New Legislative Framework** (Goods package): the implementation of the New Legislative Framework is one of the key elements which can improve the potential of the Internal Market. The ongoing work in connection with industrial products will be continued by the trio-presidency.
- **Promoting more wide-spread use of ICT tools** in developing of enterprise process management and B2B, B2C relations to improve competitiveness
- **Improving SMEs’ access to internal market:** by providing comprehensive up-to-date information, improving public procurement rules, encouraging cross-border cooperation
- **Creating a more dynamic business environment** by unlocking the business potential: promoting market entry, launching of new activities and enterprise transmission, decreasing the stigma of failure, improving entrepreneurial education.
- **Improvement of the competitiveness of the EU:** While further improving the functioning of the internal market special emphasis should be given to the external competitiveness of the European Union. While Europe should continue to be the main advocate of for example environmental, safety and other legislations, its impact on short term competitiveness and on the labour market should be considered and to the extent possible dealt with thorough agreements with third countries.
- **Public procurement:** The area of public procurement can play a key role in the recovery of economic growth. Therefore the trio Presidency will examine the possibilities of simplifying legislation in this area, while making easier market access to the SMEs.
- **Company Law:** The presidencies will pay due attention to reach agreement on the regulation of **European Private Company Statute** (SPE).
- The trio presidency is willing to start the negotiations of the **Draft directive of cross-border transfer of seat**, if the proposal arrives from the Commission.
- The field of the company law is a pilot project within the simplification exercise and the trio presidencies will actively continue the **negotiations on simplification-proposals**.

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- The work arising from the **revision of the take-over directive and the regulation on the European Company (SE)** will be dealt by the presidencies as soon as the reports on the revision are adopted by the Commission.

Industry, intellectual property and tourism

- The Lisbon Strategy post-2010 will be the key priority of the Trio. Our objective will be to make a constructive contribution to this debate regarding the strategic priorities and the programmatic preparation. We will build on the various mid-term reviews which will be available at the end of 2009/at the beginning of 2010, and it will also be necessary to take stock of the recovery plans, of the European initiatives in particular, to draw the lessons for future policies and Financial Perspective.
- In that context, and taking into consideration the challenges posed by the globalisation, the external dimension of competitiveness will require a special attention. Being of transversal nature, this theme will be treated in close linkage with the different thematic priorities of the Trio. The objective is to make it possible to the European companies to seize opportunities rising from the globalisation and the opening of external markets, but also to answer on a proactive way to the threats in terms of competitiveness which are linked to these evolutions.
- The follow-up of the communication on the access to the raw materials will also be given a high priority level.
- The Trio's aim will be to make concrete proposals as regards sustainable industrial policy initiatives to promote eco-innovation and the development of the green economy, in particular with a view to the post-2010 Strategy and the recovery of the European economy. Generally speaking, industrial policy must continue to play a key role in the Lisbon Strategy post-2010 by taking on board the environmental and climate challenges.
- Furthermore, given the Post-Kyoto negotiations at the end of 2009, the Trio will be also particularly attentive to the competitiveness challenges linked to environmental and climate policies. In that context, the fight against the risk of carbon leakage and the situation of the highly energy intensive industries will receive special attention.
- With a view to the post-2010 Strategy, the aim is to consolidate an integrated and coherent approach to a sustainable industrial policy, on the basis of the teachings of the recently launched initiatives, and with the aim to develop a competitive green European economy at world-wide level. Green cars / electricity powered cars will be given a special attention.
- In addition, the Trio will pay special attention to any initiative that might improve the competitiveness of industrial sectors with the potential to contribute to the overall European competitiveness.
- The Trio will give a high priority on the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Small Business Act and its Action Plan with a view to contribute to the debate on the post-2010 SME's policy. The aim is also to continue to develop in the future SME's policies, and taking due consideration for the SME dimension within the framework of the post-2010 Strategy. Challenges like internationalisation, access to finance and to skills, sustainable development,

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transmission of businesses, networking, innovation, entrepreneurship,...will be at the heart of our reflections.

- In close linkage with the reflection on the post-2010 Strategy and the future industrial policy, and building on the coming Commission's proposals, the Trio will also contribute to the debate about the future European Innovation policy, and its instruments with a special focus on clustering policies (international dimension, interfacing businesses, R&D and training, monitoring and evaluation), lead markets, standardisation, fight against counterfeiting and piracy,...
- Besides its important role in Innovation, European standardisation will receive full attention and support so as to help its adaptation to the needs of industry, technological advances, and international competitiveness.
- In the intellectual and Industrial Property field, developing a European Observatory on Counterfeiting and Piracy and creation of a European Day against Piracy will be a priority. The Trio will try to reach an agreement on the establishment of a Unified patent litigation system and a Community Patent Regulation, and to amend the Council Regulation (EC) No 40/94 of 20 December 1993 on the Community trade mark. The Presidencies will pay special attention to proposals the Commission might present in the field of copyright and the legally accessible online content services in particular. In the field of copyright the problem of orphan works might also require special attention with regard to the national legislative developments and depending on future Community initiatives.
- As regards tourism policy, the Presidencies will support coordinated action on policies and EU measures regarding tourism sector and tourism activity. To this end, they will encourage the creation of a multi-annual budgetary framework for community actions in the field of tourism.
- The Presidencies acknowledge the horizontal importance of tourism as a sector of the economy which contributes significantly to job creation. They will pursue the inclusion of tourism aspects in EU policies that have an impact on this topic and, more specifically, they will promote discussions on the training, employment and social affairs regarding tourism, with special emphasis on European Social and Solidarity Tourism as an inclusive and dynamic element in Europe's economy; tourism's role in quality of life; tourism innovation; environmental sustainability and tourism; consumer protection, economy and taxation in tourism sector; tourist visas and security; transport and tourism mobility.
- The Trio Presidency will promote a Socially Responsible and Solidarity European Tourism Model, as well as a set of conditions and principles or codes of good practices, so as to make tourism development compatible with economic, social and environmental sustainability in line with the aims set out in the Commission Communication about an "Agenda for a sustainable and competitive European tourism".

R&D&I

- The post - 2010 strategy shall require the full development and consolidation of the European Research Area (ERA) through a close interaction between Higher Education,

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Research and Innovation policy with the aim of promoting Europe's competitiveness and addressing the major societal and technological challenges.

- Therefore the trio will progress in the design of future target(s) and/or political objectives, in view of coordinating EU and Member States policy efforts for the post-2010 period and it will support the development and implementation of a set of indicators to monitor progress towards full realisation of the ERA.
- The trio will promote an enhanced Governance of ERA enabling a more effective coordination of European, National and Regional policies and programmes notably the CIP, allowing for more efficient and more effective investments in research and Innovation in Europe. In this context the trio will further develop steps leading to an evaluation culture, including [foresight studies] and impact assessments, in particular ex-post impact assessment, covering all key relevant research policy measures in the ERA.
- **In addition the trio will give specific attention to the analysis of the** mid-term review of FP7 and will progress with the discussions on the design and ex ante impact assessment of the future Framework Programme. [Moreover the review of the structure and mechanisms of the European Research Council and Joint Undertakings (IMI, ARTEMIS, ENIAC CLEAN SKY) will be carried out during the trio presidency] Specific attention will be given to the involvement of industry, especially the SMEs and to simplify the administrative and financial control procedures.
- As part of further coordination of **European, National and Regional policies** particular attention will be given to the implementation of the joint programming through selection and implementation of a first list of themes and the detailed arrangements for cooperation and for the coordination of cross-border financing.
- An important horizontal theme is the role of the regions in the fields of research and European scientific policy. The trio will emphasize the importance of the regional dimension in the development, implementation and follow-up of the innovation and research policies, in particular those where complementarities are possible with initiatives cofinanced by the Structural Funds.
- **The trio will progress towards effectively implementing the free movement of knowledge in ERA -the fifth freedom. Further steps** building on the European partnership **will be taken** to accelerate progress in making research careers in Europe more attractive and to attract the world's best brains to European research institutes and universities.
- The trio will progress in supporting and developing actions towards an optimal integration of universities and research institutions in the knowledge triangle.
- The trio will further engage in **the implementation of the knowledge triangle, including the first knowledge and innovation communities (KICs) of the European Institute for Technology and Innovation (EIT)**. In addition the trio will pay great

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attention to the implementation and follow-up of the initiatives taken within the framework of the new European innovation plan.

- The trio will closely monitor the progress of the realisation of the pan-European research infrastructures listed on the ESFRI-roadmap and promote the development of medium-sized and networked research infrastructures.
- The trio will emphasize the role of an ERA that focuses on solutions for a sustainable economy, a sustainable society and addressing citizens' needs and expectations.
- [The preparation and discussion of the 8th EURATOM Framework Programme with special attention to the ITER project will be on the agenda.]
- The Trio supports the development of the EU space policy.

EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS COUNCIL (EPSCO)

The Trio of Spain, Belgium and Hungary will hold the EU Presidency in 2010-2011 when further decisive and targeted actions will be needed in order

- to keep the European economy on the recovery track and to ensure that economic growth will be sustainable, benefiting to all while moving towards a low carbon economy and in the light of the demographic and climate challenge, and
- to tackle the various impacts of the economic downturn and recession on the employment and social situation.

The response of the Trio Presidency to this double challenge will be based on the following key priorities in the employment and social field:

- 1) **promoting employment** and entrepreneurship, as well as the related skills development, creating more and better jobs, particularly in those new professions and sectors which emerge along the structural shift towards a low carbon economy, green industries and knowledge economy;
- 2) **fighting against** structural and long-term **unemployment** - which is likely to remain widespread and high despite the return of economic growth - with a particular attention to those groups which have special difficulties in access and stay on the labour market;
- 3) **promoting social inclusion** with a focus on the most vulnerable, **preventing and avoiding** poverty and **social exclusion**;
- 4) ensuring a high level of **social protection systems** as it fully play their role as an instrument to reinforce social cohesion and as an automatic stabiliser building on solidarity;

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- 5) working towards **equal opportunities**, in particular equality between women and men, and strengthening **protection from all forms of discrimination**, both in and outside the world of work;
- 6) reinforcing **social dialogue** at all levels, and encouraging the social partners, while fully respecting their autonomy, to contribute to the European goals and commitments.

The Trio is aware of the considerable disparities between the more developed and the catching-up Member States, between the more prosperous and the poorest regions, and even more sharply, between the different social groups. The Trio Presidency will place **a special emphasis on tackling disparities in employment and economic terms and social inequalities. For these ends, it will strive for a positive interplay** between the European employment strategy, the Open Method of Coordination in social protection and social inclusion, the fight against poverty and the EU's cohesion policy.

The Trio Presidency will be in the best position to have a significant impact on the future of Social Europe, as such fundamental strategies will be discussed, adopted and launched during its term, like the post 2010 economic, employment and social strategies, the next Social Agenda, the new Roadmap for equality between women and men for 2011-2015, the follow-up of the European Pact on Gender Equality, adoption of the New Strategy for persons with disabilities 2010-2017, and the mid-term review of the Community Strategy for Health and Safety at Work 2007-2012.

The operational programme of the Trio could emphasise **the concepts of solidarity and social quality**. This is based on a general consensus that the economic and financial crisis entails and generates situations of social crisis which must be tackled from a standpoint of solidarity and social quality, as fundamental aspects of the Lisbon Strategy before and after 2010.

The post 2010 Strategy - social dimension

Leading the preparations and discussions about **the post 2010 Lisbon Strategy (furthermore post 2010 strategy) to an agreement, and subsequently, launching the new strategy** will be the key priorities for the three Presidencies.

As regards the **social dimension of the post 2010 Lisbon Strategy**, where the EPSCO has a unique role and responsibility, the Trio places **employment and social cohesion** in the forefront, having special attention on the gender equality and giving high priority to gender mainstreaming through the post 2010 Strategy. The **harsh implications of the recent financial and economic crisis and social downturns** must be duly reflected in the post 2010-Lisbon Strategy jointly with the need to continue facing the long term challenges. The basic principle of the European Union will have to be recalled, which is to create **a territorially and socially more cohesive Union** and to reduce economic, social and territorial disparities between the Member States and their regions and thus to provide the entire Community with prosperity.

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Specially in the context of the financial crisis, an evaluation of the **effectiveness of the European financial instruments** (European Social Fund, European Globalisation Adjustment Fund) available for pursuing employment and social goal is needed.

The finalization and the launch of the post 2010 Lisbon-Strategy requires **coordinated efforts at the highest possible level**. The Trio will make its best efforts to strengthen the role of the EPSCO in determining the priorities, the integrated policy mix and the adequate procedures and instruments. A better coordination will be sought between the various configurations of the Council, in particular with JHA on immigration and employment affairs, with EYC on education, training and youth, and with ECOFIN on matters related to the design, implementation, monitoring and assessment of the Strategy. The role of the Treaty committees dealing with the various aspects of the Strategy (particularly: EMCO, SPC and EPC) will be also strengthened.

The Trio also emphasizes the importance of monitoring the social and employment impacts of reforms and strategies developed in different economic contexts.

The Trio will especially seek the active **cooperation of the social partners**. Their commitment and contribution is crucial for achieving the overarching objectives of the post 2010 Lisbon-Strategy. The Trio aims at giving the Tripartite Social Summit more role and visibility in policy making and also inviting the social partners at all levels to take part actively in delivering reforms. Furthermore, we will seek to broaden the framework of the macroeconomic dialogue by incorporating a representation of the EPSCO. Finally, a reflection could be lead on the relevance of establishing a European social partner infrastructure aimed at securing and developing the institutionalised consultation, social dialogue on EU treaty-related issues.

Since **the external dimension** has a much stronger role to play in the globalised world, the post 2010 Lisbon Strategy should also particularly address this aspect of economic growth and trade relations, and should aim at making substantial progress in strengthening the social dimension of globalisation (e.g. ILO's decent work agenda and Global Job Pact).

European employment strategy - employment

The European Employment Strategy (EES), both within the context of the overall post 2010 Lisbon Strategy and on its own Treaty basis, should continue to respond to long term challenges, such as globalisation, the ageing of the population, the consequences of climate change and the increasing importance of skills and innovation. The structural character of long term reforms implies a time horizon towards 2020 (or even beyond). At the same time EES should also respond to the shorter term challenges such as addressing the increasing unemployment, the labour market imbalances brought about by the recession.

The EES needs a clear focus on aiming at full employment (more jobs), at quality employment (better jobs) and at combating high unemployment. The common policy priorities have to be supported by strict governance principles and a coherent methodology, such as adapting common guidelines and recommendations on employment policies of the

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Member States, reporting i.e. through a comprehensive set of indicators for monitoring and analysis covering all aspects of the Strategy, promoting mutual learning, spreading best practices in order to ensure the convergence to jointly defined, quantified and measurable targets, taking into account the different pace in which the Member States move towards them.

Tackling employment as a priority, the Trio is committed to make further steps to adjust the EES to the changed economic and social reality of Europe and to the expectations of the EU citizens. The employment guidelines could be made more mobilizing by developing targets for the branch and/or regional level. The successor of the current EES should also enhance involvement of competent authorities at all levels and the social partners in both the development and the implementation of integrated guidelines. The Trio will also advocate finding the best possible mix of policy tools and financial instruments.

Beyond working on the overall policy framework, the Trio will address the following key employment-related issues and intends to achieve concrete progress:

- a) **Improving anticipation and matching of skills with labour market needs** by reinforcing access to training for all and promoting broad lifelong learning strategies, having special attention to the most vulnerable.
- b) **Promoting the development of green jobs** jointly with the social partners as a contribution to a low-carbon economy.
- c) Facilitating the practical implementation of the **common principles of flexicurity**, especially by focusing on the following areas:
 - easing employment transitions (and making transition pay) through providing adequate environment in the labour market and job mobility;
 - assuring safety nets with a view to stimulating participation in the labour market,
 - developing life cycle approach of jobs and reaching a better balance between professional and private life, and
 - making work pay (addressing the issue of working poor).
- d) Enhancing the labour market participation of inter alia:
 - the **youth and the labour market entrants** by promoting work experience possibilities, providing assistance for equal access to quality employment and improving their employability;
 - the elderly by easing their access to lifelong learning and adapting the workplace and the duration of work to their needs;
 - **persons with disabilities**, by the application of universal accessibility, by further implementation and promotion of the mainstreaming of policies for people with disabilities, by fighting against discrimination;
 - all vulnerable groups by **fighting the rising labour market segregation**.
- e) **promoting integration into the world of work**, especially for disadvantaged groups and regions, and other victims of the economic and social downturn.
- f) Addressing **undeclared work, illegal work and black economy** – in order to make legal work be attractive and rewarding. Furthermore, strengthening the cooperation among the relevant authorities of the Member States in fighting against undeclared work, promoting exchange of information and good practices.

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- g) Assessing, in close cooperation with the Commission, the **impact of the transitional arrangements** on the free movement of workers which will be terminated for the EU8 on 30 April 2011.
- i) Improving self-employment and stressing the key role of the companies in the social economy sector.

As regards the **quality of employment**, the Trio will pay a special attention to health and safety at work, for which **the mid-term review of the Community Strategy for Health and Safety at Work 2007-2012** provides an excellent opportunity. To foster further improvements in this field, the Trio will

- focus on the health and safety situation in the small and medium enterprises and, where necessary, will initiate supplementary targeted measures;
- support Community measures on some special areas, such as the muscle-skeletal risks, infection via needle-stick injuries, and on the ban on tobacco in the work place.

The European Social Agenda

The 18 months of the ES-BE-HU Trio will be a crucial period as regards promoting social progress in the Union: the current Social Agenda 2005-2010 will be evaluated and a new Social Agenda will be outlined for the proceeding five years. The mid-term review of the Social Agenda in 2008 has already resulted in significant modifications in order to attune the European policy approaches and Community actions to the changing realities. In order to pursue the post 2010 Strategy, the future Social Agenda should also be coherent with and supportive to the overarching European goals, in particular as regards employment, social protection and social inclusion, and equal opportunities.

The Trio Presidency will support the Commission in the **assessment of the implementation of the renewed, current Social Agenda**. A special attention will be devoted to the evaluation of the strategies developed in various economic contexts, including their gender impact, by taking duly into account, among others, the social and environmental dimensions.

The Trio will work closely, and as a priority, with the Commission, in the design and **development of the new, post 2010 Social Agenda** involving all the relevant stakeholders (particularly the social partners and the civil society in general).

The Trio will make its best efforts to assist the Commission in drawing up in the future Social Agenda the most suitable **policy mix** along with the most adequate **instruments** to assist the Member States in their responses to the post-recession challenges. The wide range of Community policy tools, including legislation, the open method of coordination, the European social dialogue and the financial instruments, has to be utilized to their full. Particular attention will be paid to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Legislation in the social area ensures a level playing field and supports fair competition in the internal market, therefore its regulatory role will be promoted by the Trio when the new Social Agenda is debated. The Trio Presidency strongly believes that the economic progress of the European Union should be underpinned by **common basic labour standards as well**

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as social rights and responsibilities. Social dumping, the deterioration of working conditions, reducing workers' protection, and alike, although could bring some immediate results, but undoubtedly undermine the sustainability and longer-term prosperity of Europe as well as the labour and social rights of EU citizens.

The Trio Presidency will do its best to facilitate Community legislation in areas where it considers legislation as an appropriate and necessary tool. In this spirit, the Trio

- will facilitate the **revision of the Directives** on the transfer of undertakings, on information and consultation of workers, and on collective redundancies, for extending their scope to seafarers and to cases where firms are bought up (hedge funds);
- will urge a Community response to the difficulties and dilemmas emerging in the context of the free provision of services and the rights of workers in relation to the Directive on posted workers.
- will also support those initiatives which facilitate the vigorous implementation of the already existing Community acquis, adopting co-operation instruments and procedures between responsible authorities in Member States for monitoring the implementation of EU and national labour and social legislation, in order to guarantee the effective execution of administrative sanctions.

The three Presidencies will also pay special attention to the **external dimension of the European Social Model**. In this regard, the Trio will make efforts for reinforcing the social dimension in external multilateral and bilateral relations, with the aim of implementing and promoting the Decent Work Agenda of the ILO, the fundamental labour and social rights and a global social framework compatible with the European Social Model.

Social inclusion, social protection. The social OMC

As the Trio will hold its Presidency in a post-recession period, tackling the social implications of the economic turmoil will be of high priority in its political agenda, as well as responding to long term challenges in the context of the post 2010 Lisbon strategy.

The three Presidencies will focus their attention on those who have been **most affected** by the financial and economic crises, who are the most vulnerable, who are living at risk of poverty or persistent poverty, who have very limited chances to return to the primary labour market and to regain decent living standards should targeted assistance is not provided. Fresh ambitions are needed to tackle the new and increased risks of their exclusion. Attention will be also given to promote a high level social protection for all.

The Trio Presidency believes that **poverty and exclusion have both a gender dimension and a strong territorial character**. In most Member States single-parent families, women and children are far too often among the poorest and the transmission of poverty over generations confines to permanent exclusion. The most backward and vulnerable regions, urban areas, social groups and communities face complex multidimensional problems (including lack of basic infrastructure, socio-economic under-development that was further worsening at the time of the recession, low educational and training attainment, deteriorating housing and living conditions, weak chances for economic development, large populations of

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segregated minorities and vulnerable groups, etc). The Trio will promote an integrated approach to address the economic and social disparities between social groups and among territorial units.

In this context the Trio especially welcome that 2010 will be the **European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion**. The European Year by highlighting the importance of these issues and attracting the political attention will give a new impetus to fighting for social inclusion both at European level and on the ground in the Member States. The Presidencies will closely collaborate with the Commission in carrying through the actions provided for in the associated Decision and the commitments made also in 2011.

To combat poverty and social exclusion, the Trio will promote the following actions:

- a) Reinforcing the **Open method of coordination** in all its strands by taking new measures and determined action on the basis of evidence based target setting and guidelines. Particularly:
 - A strong commitment for the short and long term objective of reducing poverty and social exclusion
 - Reinforcing the processes within the OMC (targets, indicators as policy tools, recommendations, social impact assessment (mainstreaming), peer review and benchmarking)
 - A special focus should be given to reinforcing and concretising the active inclusion strategy and to explore the role of minimum income mechanisms.
 - Promoting the participation of the social partners and the organised civil society.
- b) Pursuing a **more comprehensive approach to prevent and fight against poverty**, especially women and child poverty, by focusing on the intergenerational dimension of poverty, and improving measurement of poverty risks.
- c) Pursuing **special initiatives to assist the most vulnerable groups and communities**, like people with disabilities, migrants workers and their families, homeless persons, the Roma population and minorities. To address their particular vulnerability **the mainstreaming of policies** for these groups will be promoted.
 - Related to persons with disabilities the Presidencies will work - jointly with the Commission - to adopt and implement a new strategic framework on disability (2010-2017), and to follow up on the ratification and implementation of the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
 - Related to the integration of the Roma population, following the conclusions of the first European Roma Summit (held on 16 September 2008), special measures will be sought, and the Second European Summit will be held.
- d) **Continuing and intensifying the work as regards social services of general interest**, in particular regarding its quality, accessibility and with the view to enhance their legal certainty. The Presidencies consider this topic as an essential issue also in the context of reducing territorial disparities and differences among social groups, and will address this issue as the key subject of the Forum to be held after the publication of the 2nd report of the Commission on this issue.

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In the area of **social protection** the Trio will continue supporting the Member States' efforts to modernise their pension and health systems in the perspective of ensuring their adequacy, accessibility and sustainability. The Three Presidencies believe that high level social protection cannot be interpreted merely as a public expenditure, but much more as a productive factor which contributes to economic growth, employment and social cohesion. Social security arrangements in the post-recession period will be more important than ever.

The Trio Presidency will focus on:

- supporting various initiatives in the context of the **ageing society**, and thus to pave the way to the European Year on Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity in 2012.
- the modernisation, sustainability and adequacy of the **pension systems** with the focus on the importance of a strong first pillars and security prevention of risks within the second and third pillars

In the field of the **coordination of social security** the work needed for the implementation of the Regulation 883/04 will continue, in particular, in the Administrative Commission. Additional key activities will be:

- adapting the **Regulation 883/04** will be pursued through the necessary amendments;
- launching the work on the **coordination of the Social Security Chapters of the Association Agreements**, in particular those with the Maghreb and Eastern European countries;
- strengthening the **external dimension of European social security**, especially the relations with Latin America and other regions.

Equality between women and men and non-discrimination

In spite of all the progress that has been made in the European Union promoting gender equality and strengthening protection from all form of discrimination continue to deserve special attention. The Trio Presidency reaffirms its strong commitment to the developments achieved so far and intends to proceed in the area of gender equality and non-discrimination with a new political impetus and focused actions.

At policy level, the Three Presidencies intend to push forward vigorously the **gender equality agenda**. For that end, the Trio:

- a) will give high priority to **gender mainstreaming** throughout the post 2010 Strategy;
- b) will be actively engaged in the follow-up of the Commission's evaluation of the current Roadmap for Equality between Women and Men 2006-2010 and will support and co-operate in drafting a **new Roadmap for the Equality between Women and Men for 2011-2015**;
- c) will also contribute to the follow-up of the implementation of the **European Pact on Gender Equality** in the context of the fifth anniversary of its adoption by the European Council;
- d) will evaluate and supervise the implementation of the **Beijing Platform for Action** (by presenting the Beijing progress report in the United Nations Commission on the Status of

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Women) and the organisation of Beijing +15; will launch the work at EU level within the new period.

The Trio Presidency will focus on making **significant, concrete steps** towards gender equality in the following areas:

- **combating gender violence,**
- addressing the persistent **pay gap** between men and women;
- **combating gender-based stereotypes;**
- **promoting the reconciliation of professional, private and family life.**

The Trio Presidency is deeply committed to the principle laid down in the Article 13 of the EC Treaty and will intensify the Community's efforts to **fight against all forms of discrimination**. In order to promote equal treatment for all grounds, the Trio Presidency:

- a) will continue the work on the legislative area, related to non-discrimination policy, in particular on the proposal **of the Directive on equal treatment (Article 13)** and other possible initiatives related to the fight against discrimination on the ground of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation;
- b) will devote a special attention to the **vigorous implementation and monitoring** of the already existing equality legislation.

Health care

In the field of **health care**, the three Presidencies will promote Community actions to help raise the level of health of all citizens, while deepening the Declaration of 2006 on the common values and principles of health systems in the EU and taking into account the current EU strategy on health and the priorities of the second program of action in the field of Health 2008-2013. Special attention will also be paid to integrate health and take into account health determinants into all the other EU policies.

Therefore, **solidarity and innovation** will be at the heart of the Presidencies' policies paying special attention to the sustainability of health care systems and the protection of health. In this regard:

Work will be undertaken in the field of social determinants of health, reduction of inequalities, identification of experiences, and good practices.

Healthy lifestyles and the fight against addictions are of particular importance.

Special attention will be paid to children, adolescents and vulnerable groups.

Attention will be paid to the question of health security in general and in particular to the health impact of climate and environmental change. Special attention will be paid to international collaboration with third countries in this field.

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The three Presidencies will work towards innovation in health care, in particular in the context of an ageing population. This covers inter alia renewing our thinking on quality and safety, and our approach to chronic diseases, different forms of care, e-health and the issues related to the EU health work force. This will be done from the perspective of universal coverage, territorial cohesion; involvement of professionals and use of technological tools and knowledge.

Advanced therapies and donation and transplant of organs and tissues are priorities to be developed based on the support and approval of the Directive on organ donation and transplants.

The work of the Public Health Working Party on Senior Level will be fostered.

Work will be done in the area of **medicines**, on matters such as the safety and the quality of pharmaceuticals, antimicrobial resistance, rational use of antibiotics, pharmacovigilance and counterfeit drugs. Improved cooperation to increase access to medicines will be examined.

In the area of **consumer protection**, ongoing work on consumer rights will be fostered, and progress will be sought in general safety of products and in the field of collective redress of consumers' interests, a matter which requires careful attention from the three Presidencies, given its nature and scant regulation.

Special attention will also be paid to improvements in the regulation of food stuffs and **food safety** in such areas as consumer information on food products, novel foods, dietetic products and hygiene of food products.

Promotion of healthy nutritional habits and interventions against obesity shall also be fostered.

Consumer protection

In the area of consumer protection, priority will be given to the **Draft Directive on consumer rights**. The horizontal approach and the complexity of the Draft Directive require intensive and comprehensive negotiations. The ongoing work will be fostered by the Trio presidency.

In the continuation of the review of the consumer acquis, the Commission announced the revision of the Package Travel Directive in 2010. The trio presidency will closely follow this initiative.

Attention should also be paid to the area of **consumer's collective redress**. After the Commission has adopted the Green Book on consumer collective redress, a new proposal might follow.

The preparatory work for the future **EC-USA agreement on co-operation in the field of the implementation of consumer rights** will be continued by the Trio presidency.

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Advances will be sought in **general safety of products**, a matter of which requires careful attention from the three Presidencies, given its nature and scant regulation.

The half-time evaluation of the **Community action in the field of consumer policy (2007-2013)** is expected to take place in 2010, during the time of the trio presidency.

To improve the protection of consumers as tourists, and to be aligned with the new developments in the industry, depending on the Commission's proposal the Directive on **package travel, package holiday and package tours** will be revised.

Finally the trio presidency will be attentive on the cross-disciplinary aspect of the consumer protection and its integration in the other policies (consumer information on the foodstuffs, rights of the energy consumers, telecom, financial services,...).

TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY COUNCIL

TRANSPORT

Sustainability, innovation and safety and security will be the key concepts inspiring the action of the trio presidency ES/BE/HU within the EU Transport Council, for the 18 months of their mandates.

- Sustainable and competitive transport with discussions concerning the internalization of external costs, with a wider approach, including all modes of transport. Also, the implementation of the Action Plan for Logistics and the Action Plan for Urban Mobility should be given a priority treatment, subject to the availability of Commission Proposals.
- The future of transport in the EU from 2010. It will be necessary to analyze the policies implemented in accordance with the 2001 White Paper, and to start the discussions on the basis of the expected "New White Paper", with the horizon 2030/2040 and draw the corresponding conclusions.
- Land transport. Particular attention shall be given to the implementation and revision of the first railway package, with the aim of achieving an efficient and competitive rail market. In road safety cross-border enforcement of penalties and the launching of a new Road Safety Programme will be of great importance. Concerning road safety, special attention shall also be given to a global review in 2010 regarding the existing scheme for fatality reduction in the last decade.
- Aviation: Particular attention will be paid to the review of the Single European Sky (SES) Programme. An agreement on the new airport security charges directive and on

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the revised code of conduct for computer reservation systems will be on the agenda, as well as the negotiations of air transport agreements with third countries. Regarding air transport safety, particular attention shall be given to an agreement on the expected Directive on accident investigations and the extension of the responsibilities of the European Air Safety Agency. Also, any proposal aiming at enhancing safety and security in air transport will be given a priority treatment. We intend to take further steps concerning the development of the air traffic control system, especially focusing on Community air traffic controller license.

- Maritime transport. The revision of the Regulation establishing the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), making clearer its status and competences, and the discussions on the “European Maritime Transport Space without barriers”, for the improvement of efficiency in ports and maritime transport, will be among the priorities. Special attention shall be given to review the development of the motorways of the sea, considering the results achieved in the experiences launched up to date.
- Trans European Transport Networks (TEN-T). The revised proposal of new orientations for Trans-European Transport Networks will be considered a priority. In this context, particular attention shall be given to the new Commission’s approaches on environment, modal shift, multimodality, better infrastructure management and financing.
- ITS. The trio presidency will take forward the Community initiatives for promoting actions in the different transport modes; provide significant input for the use of intelligent transport systems (ITS), especially in road transport, but also in air transport (SESAR, GALILEO). The Action plan for the deployment of ITS, and the Directive on ITS will be given special consideration.
- The three Presidencies will also focus on the implementation of the European GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) programmes, with special emphasis on
 - the mid-term review together with the preparation for the post-2013 exploitation of Galileo and EGNOS, including their financing;
 - application and service development;
 - revision of the international cooperation strategy;
 - continuation and reinforcement of existing bilateral cooperation and preparation of new agreements.
- Inland navigation NAIADES follow up and implementation actions to be proposed by the Commission.
- The cooperation in the field of transport between EU countries and third countries will be fostered.

TELECOMMUNICATION

- The Trio will finish the agreement and promote the implantation with the European Parliament and Council of the **revision of the regulatory telecommunications package**, presented in 2007 by the Commission.
- The Presidencies will foment the debate on the new **scope of the Universal Service** in the electronic communications and the incorporation of the broadband in the scope of universal service.

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- The approval of the **New Strategy 2010-2015 for promotion of Information Society** (i2010 below) and the encouragement of its implementation will be a main priority of the Trio.
- The Trio will foment the deployment of **next generation networks**, both in infrastructure and services.
- The Trio's aim will be to promote **network security, electronic commerce and protection of intellectual property** in Internet and the fight against piracy.
- The extended mandate of the **European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA)** based on Regulation 460/2004 will expire in March 2012. Taking into account the outcome of the review of the regulatory framework for electronic communications, the Presidencies will facilitate an evaluation and discussion about the future of the ENISA, allowing reflection on the general direction of the European efforts towards an increased network and information security beyond 2012.
- The Presidencies will contribute to the development of the **Internet of the Future**, giving continuity to the work of the Slovenian Presidency (Bled Declaration) and Czech Presidency (Prague declaration), analyzing the new challenges that appear as consequence the consolidation of the new networks generation, extending of universal service, network neutrality, broadband on mobile, convergence of fixed and mobile networks, development of the internet of things and to offer new services to citizens.
- Special attention will be given to the development of the **European Action Plan for eGovernment** for 2010-2015 and the electronic rights of citizens to interact with government and with businesses that provide services to the general public on special economic and the electronic identification of citizens and the electronic invoice.
- If the monitoring of the implementation of the amended Regulation 717/2007 on **Roaming** on public mobile telephone networks within the Community - expiring in June 2012 - will make it necessary, the three Presidencies will pay attention to the Commission's review due by June 2011.
- To make all the preparations for the upcoming **World Radiocommunications Conference in 2011** (WRC-11) in order to ensure that the European preparations fully support the Community policies and principles.
- **Postal services:** Coordination of EU positions - UPU Strategic Conference of Nairobi (21 to 25 September 2010).

<u>ENERGY</u>

- The adoption of the energy-action plan for 2010-2012 at the Spring European Summit of 2010 will be the main political challenge of the Trio-Presidency in the energy field and the corner stone for policy activities for the whole period.
- The Presidencies will promote the energy security of supply by:
 - A. Enhancing energy infrastructures:
 - Replacing the existing TEN-E instrument by a new "EU Energy Security and Infrastructure" instrument. The TEN-E financial regulation and TEN-E guidelines will be revised according to the outcome of the Green paper

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”Towards secure, sustainable and competitive European energy networks” public consultation, including a 10 years investment plan.

- Carrying out further work on the six priority infrastructure actions: the Southern gas corridor, a diverse and adequate LNG supply for Europe, effective interconnection of the Baltic region, the Mediterranean Energy Ring, adequate North-South gas and electricity interconnections within Central and South-East Europe, and the North Sea and the North West Offshore grid, as outlined in the 2nd Strategic Energy Review.
- Identification and removal of barriers to investment, including by means of streamlining of planning and consultation procedures or in particular for projects which improve interconnection.
- Updating the current EU monitoring system of investment in the energy sector on EU level and encouraging a better analysis of investment trends with a view to matching the future demand and EU policy objectives.
- Finalising and implementing the Security of Gas Supply Directive and promoting a gas diversification policy.

B. Further developing the internal energy market:

- Completing the internal market for energy, ensuring available and affordable energy and contributing to the shift towards a low carbon economy
 - Bringing to practice the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)
- In the field of sustainable energy and Energy Efficiency:
 - The Presidencies will as appropriate formulate answers to the energy-climate challenges taking into account the results of the Copenhagen Climate Summit.
 - The Trio will support to fully implement the efficiency Directives. It will endeavour to adopt a revised Energy Efficiency Action Plan (EEAP) in order to improve the energy efficiency and succeed in accomplishing a 20% primary energy reduction target by 2020. Important issues in this area are: the revision of the cogeneration directive, the implementation of the directive for energy efficiency in buildings, implementing measures for household appliances, etc; as well as other actions as established in the EEAP.
 - The development of the provisions of the Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, in particular in what sustainability of biomass, indirect land use change and electricity from the deployment of Concentrated Solar Power or offshore wind power, notably in the North Sea, concerns.
 - The Presidencies will speed up the implementation of the SET Plan and will pay due regard to the industrial energy initiatives in areas such as renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency or smart grids and will ensure consistency with these priorities in the 7th and future Framework Research Programmes, the present and future competitiveness and

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Innovation Programmes, the three announced PPPs (clean cars, energy in buildings and future manufacturing systems) and the energy initiatives launched under the Economic Recovery Plan.

- In line with the above, an agreement will be sought as to the financing mechanisms of low carbon technologies in order to stimulate and facilitate the use of clean technologies in line with EU competitiveness and economic recovery.
- The Presidencies will consider as a strategic need developing a vision towards an energy policy by 2050, which will identify actions necessary for a low carbon electricity generation by 2050, and work out available options to make this feasible.
- In the Nuclear Energy field, the Presidencies will pay particular attention to the new directive on safe and sustainable radio-active waste management and the proposal on the review of Basic Safety Standards.
- External Relations in the energy field will play a very important role. Actions will in particular aim at finalizing the PCA (Partnership & Cooperation Agreement), as well as the nuclear negotiations with Russia, the ECT (Energy Charter Treaty), the ministerial meeting of the Energy Community, cooperation with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), technical cooperation with Ukraine, developing a partnership with the Caspian region, Energy Dialogue meetings (US-EU strategic energy views, EU-India Energy Panel, EU-High Level Dialogue and Energy Dialogue with Japan and China), Euro-Mediterranean cooperation (renewable electricity from Africa, Mediterranean Solar Plan), EU-Africa Energy partnership; OPEC MINISTERIAL in Brussels; EU Latin America Cooperation (EULAC) and the XII International Energy Forum in Cancun.

EDUCATION, YOUTH AND CULTURE COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

GLOBAL ASPECTS AND BROADER EU CONTEXT/POLICIES

Education and training are key drivers for the improvement and the achievement of employability, competitiveness, innovation, cultural development, social inclusion and, ultimately, for the achievement of greater economic welfare. Education and training have made a substantial contribution towards achieving the long-term goals of the Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs and they should continue to play a key role in the post 2010 Lisbon Strategy.

Investment in education and training is a means to ensure economic and social recovery and the competitive position of Europe on a global scale as a region of economic prosperity and social cohesion in a long-term perspective. In the next decade the European Union will struggle with the challenges of globalisation and demography (ageing and increasingly multicultural society). In order to meet these challenges, as well as to respond to the citizens' immediate concerns, the Trio of the Presidencies intends to contribute to European objectives

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by the development of common reference tools, approaches and initiatives in the field of education and training.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING 2020 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK (POST-LISBON STRATEGY)

During the 18 months of our three Presidencies the new EU Strategy for Growth and Jobs beyond 2010 will be prepared and launched. The Trio of the Presidencies will therefore be expected to redefine and strengthen the link between the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (E&T 2020) and the new post-2010 EU Strategy while also fully taking account of those dimensions of education and training policy that are not directly linked to growth and jobs.

This adjustment should also take account of the results of the evaluation of the progress made in achieving the benchmarks adopted under the “E&T 2010” work programme that the Commission will conduct during 2010, the Commission’s proposals for possible benchmarks in the areas of mobility and employability (by the end of 2010) and the Commission’s report (also, by the end of 2010) on the coherent framework of indicators and benchmarks adopted by the Council in May 2007.

Evidence based education and training policies should be underpinned by sound data. Therefore, special attention is to be given to the contribution of international evaluation studies (PISA, PIRLS, etc. ...) to the improvement of European education and training systems at all levels.

The focus will be put on the implementation of the four strategic objectives addressed in the framework: making lifelong learning and mobility a reality, improving the quality and efficiency of education and training, promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship and enhancing innovation and creativity, including entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and training, through the means of the Open Method of Coordination (indicators, benchmarks, peer-learning and exchange of good practices).

As regards lifelong learning, which is the principle underpinning the entire framework, the three Presidencies will continue to work in adapting learning outcomes and qualifications to the needs of the labour market and efforts will be made to gear implementation of EQF (by pursuing work on the development of national qualifications frameworks and their link to the European Qualifications Framework) and to establish more flexible learning pathways and greater openness towards non-formal and informal learning.

Synergies between the Bologna Process for higher education and the Copenhagen Process for VET and the framework for European cooperation in education and training need to be further strengthened.

SOCIAL DIMENSION OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING (EQUITY ISSUES/SOCIAL AGENDA)

The Trio Presidencies will give a special consideration to promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship. To address educational disadvantage the Trio Presidencies will take up the issues of equitable access to quality early childhood education, combating early leaving from education and training, inclusive education policies for learners with special needs and social inclusion of disadvantaged groups (e.g. cultural minorities and immigrants).

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The role of education and training in leading to social cohesion and active citizenship by promoting transversal competences, including intercultural competences, entrepreneurship and social skills, respect for democratic values and for fundamental rights and the environment, as well as combating all forms of discrimination will be highlighted.

2010 is the European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion and 2011 is the European Year of Volunteering. Both topics are of high relevance for education and training at all levels.

SCHOOLS FOR THE XXI CENTURY

School education plays a key role in the implementation of the above-mentioned issues. Implementation of the agenda for schools of the 21st century will be taken up by the Trio Presidencies, e.g. with regard to school governance and leadership, improvement of teacher training, basic skills, innovation-friendly institutions (including the use of ICT tools) ...

The results of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009 will help addressing key challenges in enhancing creativity and innovation at all levels of education and training.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING [COPENHAGEN PROCESS]

Vocational Education and Training (VET) is as much a key factor for socio-economic development, as it is for progress for society at large. This is even more the case in a context of economic recovery, where matching skills demands and supply and anticipating future skill needs is crucial.

Reviewing, renewing and implementing common European policy priorities for VET - including enhancing the attractiveness and quality of VET and making it more responsive to the labour market needs also through the promotion of learning outcomes and borderless lifelong learning - remain valid. Further progress is envisaged during the Trio Presidency work in the implementation of the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) and the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for VET (EQARF). Also, particular attention will be given, to promoting adult learning, to improving the quality of guidance systems as well as to institutional governance and better cooperation between education and training institutions with business and industry, e.g. in the organisation of work-based training.

The meeting for the follow up of the Copenhagen process held every two years will take place under Belgian Presidency, where the results of the review of the Copenhagen Process will be discussed.

MODERNISING HIGHER EDUCATION

In the framework of the Bologna Process the Ministerial anniversary meeting, to be held in Budapest and Vienna, 11-12 March 2010, will take place under Spanish Presidency. Under Belgian Presidency the Bologna Follow-up Group will be entrusted with the task to adjust the 2009-2012 work programme in function of the results of the independent assessment, which will be presented in Budapest and Vienna. In order to guarantee synergies between higher education, research and innovation, focus will also be given to the coherence between the Bologna Process and the action line on the modernisation of higher education in the new

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strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training. The social dimension in higher education will hold high.

In a perspective of convergence between the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area, the Trio Presidencies will work on the modernisation agenda for European higher education so as to enhance its visibility and to let it play a catalyst role in the knowledge triangle (higher education-research-innovation).

With a view to advancing internationalisation, European university cooperation beyond the borders of the Union will be promoted.

MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE LLL PROGRAMME

The action programme in the field of lifelong learning will expire in 2013. The European Commission will publish its mid-term review in the course of 2010. During the three Presidencies the concept and main framework for the next phase of the programme will be discussed and political orientations to increase quality, scope, width and equitable access to mobility and international exchange will be given for the next phase of the programme.

Mobility is an essential element of lifelong learning and an important means for enhancing employability and flexibility. Thus, learners and teacher mobility will continue to be high in the agenda and in this context the Trio Presidencies will strive to eliminate barriers and increase opportunities for mobility, in all educational levels, both within the European Union and worldwide.

YOUTH ISSUES

The Presidencies will be in line with the EU Strategy for Youth – Investing and Empowering. A renewed open method of coordination is an effective tool to address youth challenges and opportunities. In its implementation, continuing priority will be given to the improvement of those initiatives which facilitate the cultural and personal development, the social inclusion, employment and participation of young people, building bridges between the educational system and the labour market and which promote greater integration of the youth dimension into other policy fields concerned (cross-sectoral approach) at European level.

The field of actions (education, employment, creativity and entrepreneurship, health and sport, democratic participation, social inclusion, volunteering, youth and the world) outlined in the EU Strategy is relevant and shows the main challenges young people facing with.

To reach our goals, different policies need to be stimulated. Therefore the Trio supports and promotes the co-operation between youth policy and other areas of policy-making at all levels (horizontal approach) and the Trio pays great attention to the participation of young people in decision-making, which concern them (vertical approach).

The Trio also underlines the importance of the appearance of youth dimension in the post-2010 Lisbon Strategy and of the enhancement and further implementation of the European Youth Pact.

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Within these frameworks, the Trio Presidency will pay special attention to the promotion of active social inclusion of young people, to the development of youth work and to the active participation of this age group.

From the perspective of young people, the Trio Presidency would like to create a link with the European Years during the Trio Presidency, which will focus on the fight against poverty and social exclusion in 2010 and on volunteering in 2011.

CULTURE

The adoption of a European Agenda for Culture by the Council in November 2007 was an important step towards further developing cooperation in the cultural field and increasing the coherence and visibility of European action in this field. It was a major stage in shaping a new, strategic and horizontal approach to culture, which is a key factor of promoting tolerance, peace, dialogue and mutual understanding, in particular through the promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue. Culture is also a catalyst for creativity and innovation, which lead to economic growth and employment opportunities. From this perspective, culture, cultural and creative industries are important elements of the response to be given to the global economic and financial crisis.

The three Presidencies will fit their activities into the framework of the **European Agenda for Culture** and continue the work defined by the Council's work plan for culture 2008-2010. They will lead the assessment of this work plan, with special regard to the evaluation of the results of the work done in the framework of the Open Method of Coordination and will make efforts for initiating a new work plan for the subsequent years.

Cultural and creative industries are substantially contributing to European GDP, growth and employment, as well as to local and regional development. They are essential assets for Europe's economy and competitiveness in the context of globalisation. The role of cultural and creative industries should therefore be strengthened in the post-Lisbon Strategy beyond 2010. The three Presidencies will pay particular attention to policies and resources needed to develop and support cultural and creative industries. In this context, the role of SME's will particularly be stressed.

The cultural heritage of Europe, being a witness of the past, is particularly rich and has to be sustainably preserved for the coming generations. Moreover, this heritage contributes to the economic attractiveness and sustainable development of the regions, in particular through cultural tourism, and contributes also to the development of European citizenship. The three Presidencies will therefore promote the implementation of the « European heritage label » initiative and encourage the adoption of a related legislative act.

Having regard to the preparation of the next Financial Perspective, the three Presidencies will pay attention to the preparation of the next phase of the culture-related Community programmes.

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They will also take into consideration the aims of the European Years 2010 and 2011 in the framework of their activities.

In the area of **film policy**, the three Presidencies will pay attention to the review of the “Cinema Communication” of the Commission of 26 September 2001 and to the follow-up of the recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council of 16 November 2005 on film heritage and the competitiveness of related industrial activities, while taking into account the necessity to encourage the circulation of European film works.

The content **creative online initiatives** of the European Union are a solid basis for further community actions aiming at strengthening the European audiovisual industry. The three Presidencies will specifically focus on:

- the development of the online audiovisual content industry and its positive effect on the whole economy ;
- the effective ways of safeguarding the interests of right-holders while facilitating the creation of new business models ;
- the alternative methods of distribution of audiovisual works (digital distribution, e-cinema).

The three Presidencies will also pay attention to the progress report and development perspectives of the European digital library Europeana and will tackle the problem of the long term preservation of European digital cultural heritage, which is at risk of being lost forever. They will therefore encourage further cooperation at European level in order to raise awareness of this threat and to take appropriate action to address it.

SPORT

If the Treaty of Lisbon will be approved, sport will for the first time form a part of Community policies provided for in the Treaties. The importance of the societal role of sport is well described in the White Paper on Sport, and thus will be one of the main focuses of our Presidency. Within this framework, it is hoped that our Trio can make “physical activity beneficial to health” one of the cornerstones of sport-related actions, taking into account the “EU Physical Activity Guidelines” endorsed by EU Sport Ministers in November 2008 and with a view to of life-long health-enhancing physical activity.

Another important aspect will be to press joint collaboration in the drive to fight doping using both technical and policing aspects.

Taking into account the objectives of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010 and the Year of Volunteering 2011, the approved potential of sport for social inclusion and integration, in combating poverty, as well as in volunteering, our Trio can set forward the role of sport in these fields.

The Trio also underlines that as soon as the Treaty of Lisbon is approved, the next step will be to start defining the strategic principles, objectives and criteria of the future Sport Programme,

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based on the White Paper on Sport and taking into account the specific characteristics of sport, as well as its contribution to the improvement of the mental and physical health condition of the population, to social cohesion as well as to the economy.

ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

Envisaged overall Trio Presidency priority: Greening the policies

The EU and its member states are at a turning point. The economic crisis and rapidly changing global and European economic processes are bringing new challenges that may either have the effect to speed up or postpone the needed mainstreaming of the environment in other policies. It will be about grasping opportunities for tomorrow by fostering comprehensive sustainability for all EU policies and eco-innovation and by setting standards (COMPET...); creating new jobs (EPSCO...); rethinking public investments (ECOFIN...); continuing to adapt our mobility and energy patterns (TREN...); exercise international leadership (GAERC...)... Renewed emphasis on sustainable development and greening of policies would be among the overall priorities of the Trio Presidency.

Environment dossiers

There are seven identified clusters of important environmental themes that could occur during the three presidencies. Within these clusters the following 21 political issues and dossiers should need special attention either on the European or on the international level.

Cluster I. Integration

1. Lisbon-strategy and EU Sustainable Development Strategy: cross-cutting assessment, synergy of these strategies, in particular coherence as well as integration of environment in the post-Lisbon strategy
2. Integration of the environment in other policy fields e.g. economic recovery plans, transport, energy, agriculture, EU budget ...
3. Strengthening the global follow up of the Rio Conference and the MDG's and strengthening international environmental governance

Cluster II. Climate change

4. Climate energy package: implementation and further community measures including those on vehicles
5. EU Adaptation policy
6. International cooperation and negotiations; implementation of the commitments under UNFCCC and KP and preparation for the post 2012 period (Follow up COP 15 and 16)

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Cluster III. Biodiversity

7. Package of European instruments related to the strategic post 2010 target on Biodiversity
8. Strengthening international cooperation on Biodiversity; the global follow-up within the framework of the CBD and its protocol: WG ABS9 (March 2010); SBSTTA-14 (May 2010); WGRI-3 (May 2010); COP 10 CBD (October 2010) ; MOP 5 Biosafety (back-to-back with the COP); extraordinary session of UN AG on Biodiversity (September 2010) and European GMO framework as well as for CITES (COP15, March 2010)

Cluster IV. Environment and Health

9. National Emission Ceilings Directive (NEC) and Industrial Emissions Directive (IPPC)
10. Second Environment and Health Action Plan including nanotechnology
11. Review Biocides Directive
12. Further update and elaborate the international response on environment and health within the framework of LRTAP Convention and its Protocols, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, SAICM and mercury negotiations

Cluster V. Sustainable consumption and production /sustainable use of natural resources

13. Follow up Action Plan Sustainable Consumption and Production
14. International cooperation on sustainable production and consumption, including the preparation CSD 19 and the 10 year Action Program on Sustainable Production and Consumption Patterns (i.e. Marrakech process)
15. Revision of the thematic strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste, Directive Biowaste, Directives ROHS and WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment)
16. Soil Directive

Cluster VI. Water resources

17. Pressure on available water resources; principle of integration, harmonisation of other measures with water policy (economic, health, agricultural, cultural aspects, etc.) – inter alia implementation of the Water Framework Directive and of the Flood risks Directive, review of the Drinking water Directive, preparation of the review of the Strategy for water scarcity and droughts.
18. Implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Cluster VII. Better instruments for environmental policy:

19. Preparing the 7th EAP including through the evaluation of all thematic strategies
20. Improving of instruments and their implementation, e.g. reporting- Regulation on Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS), Regulation on Environmental Technology Verification, inspection, wastes...

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21. Market based instruments e.g. cutback of environmental harmful subsidies, greening fiscal instruments

Wrap-up comment

A significant number – if not all- of the above 21 issues could constitute the policy tools needed for the greening of policies. Most – if not all – of these issues will be on the agenda during the Trio Presidency. The setting-up of the 7th EAP will be of utmost importance to underpin the above priority policy areas envisaged by the Trio Presidency. Together with the evaluation and possible revision of the Lisbon Strategy as well as evaluation and development of the Sustainable Development Strategy, it offers a unique opportunity to give the necessary direction to these developments.

Agriculture and fisheries council

CAP

- *Reform of the CAP beyond 2013*

Bearing in mind the health check conclusions on the existing CAP, and in order to be prepared as Agricultural Council to contribute to the debate on the financial perspectives 2014-2020, the general discussion on the goals and new challenges of the future CAP will be continued intensively during the trio-presidency, more particularly on the basis of the Communication that the Commission will normally present in 2010 for launching a public debate.

A special attention shall be paid to water management because of its strategic importance for agricultural production.

- *Quality of agricultural products*

The trio-presidency will attach special attention to the Commission legislative proposals regarding product standards, farming requirements and quality schemes for agricultural products.

- *Milk quota: COM-report 2010
+ (ev) legislative proposals*

The trio-presidency will attach special attention to the Commission report regarding the evolution of the market situation and the consequent conditions for smoothly phasing out the milk quota system, accompanied if necessary by appropriate proposals. This report is expected as soon as possible, to allow time for a substantial Council debate before 31/12/2010

- Agrifood Industry Competitiveness.

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Another priority of the three Presidencies will be to promote and take forward the Council initiatives to improve the competitiveness of the European Agrifood Industry.

▪ *Rural Development:*

- *New delimitation of LFA (Less Favoured Areas)*

A communication and (ev.) legislative proposals are expected.

- *In accordance with the First Action Program for the implementation of the Territorial Agenda, in the course of 2010 work needs to be done in relation to the mandatory on the degree of implementation of said Program.*

▪ *Simplification*

The trio-presidency will pay a continuing attention to the process of a further simplification of the EU-legislation. Particular attention will go to cross compliance, to the benefit not only of the European and national/regional Authorities, but also and especially to the benefit of the producers themselves.

▪ *Policy coherence between:*

- ⊙ environmental policy and CAP, with reference to the Health Check “new challenges”
- ⊙ territorial policy and CAP
- ⊙ research, development, innovation policy and CAP

Reinforcing the strategic objectives of rural development as integral part of the CAP.

▪ *WTO/DDA negotiations*

The trio-Presidency will closely monitor the evolution of these negotiations, with special attention for the agricultural part, for which a possible final agreement:

- should remain within the CAP Reform 2003-framework;
- have to be balanced; and
- should respect the interest of EU farmers.

The trio-Presidency will also undertake the revision of those regulations that need to be amended in light of the eventual outcome of the DDA.

▪ *Regulation on the Aid Scheme for the Needy.*

In the event that neither the CZ Presidency nor the SE Presidency managed to approve this proposal, it will be for the Presidency trio to finalize this dossier.

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- POSEI Regulation.

By the end of 2009 the Commission must present a report on the operation of the POSEI Regulation accompanied, if appropriate, by the corresponding legislative proposals. The trio-Presidency will undertake the examination of said report and the discussion on the possible legislative proposals.

Veterinary & Phytosanitary Items – Food Safety

- Animal health

The trio-presidency foresees an active follow up on the Animal Health Strategy Action Plan 2007-2013. Several discussions and working parties will structure the Framework. The proposal on the unique Animal Health Law will be initiated.

- Animal Welfare

The trio-presidency will take care of the Proposal on the protection of animals during transport. The Labelling of welfare indicators on foodstuffs can be part of the trio-presidency if a legislative proposal will be presented.

- Plant and Plant Health

The trio-presidency welcomes the initiative to review the plant-health framework. An evaluation report on the existing legislation will open the discussion.

The trio-presidency foresees a discussion on the report on socio-economic implications of placing on the market of GMO's which will be presented by the commission by June 2010.

Currently an external review on the operation of both pieces of legislation on GMOs (Reg. 1829/2003 and Directive 2001/18) is undergoing and its results are expected for mid 2010. This external review could be followed by legislative proposals which would be dealt with by the Trio of Presidencies (Reg. 1829/2003 falls under the competence of the Agriculture Council while the Directive 2001/18 falls under the competence of the Environment Council).

- Food labelling

The trio-presidency will work on the new legislation on labelling of foodstuffs.

- Hygiene package

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The report on the Hygiene package may result in legislative proposal. Following the discussion on the report, the trio-presidency will coordinate the necessary steps to adapt the actual package.

The trio-presidency looks forward to the report on the effectiveness and consistency of sanitary and phytosanitary controls on imports of food, feed, animals and plants. These may be followed by legislative proposal.

- **Third countries**

The 3 presidencies look forward to cooperate whilst the 18 month period in as many groups as possible. Therefore, several groups of the Potsdam and Roosendaal working parties will have one chair for the whole period.

- Review of the current legislation in imports of live animals and products of animal origin. In this matter also report from the Commission in relation with the application of the community rules of production to the imported products, especially the verification of the fulfilment on animal health, public health and animal welfare requirements on the same terms for both the producers of European and third countries.

Fisheries

- **Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy**

The 3 presidencies will give priority to the Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. A number of crucial steps in the reform process (impact assessment, council conclusions, first legislative proposals) will take place during the 18 month period.

- **Reform of the Common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products.**

The Presidency trio will finalize the reform of the CMO that started under the previous FR-CZ-SE trio.

- **Aquaculture strategy implementation**

Following the Council conclusions on the sustainable development of EU aquaculture, the Presidency trio will work on the implementation of a revised strategy.

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- TAC and quota 2011

As for all previous presidencies the annual TAC and quota negotiations will form an important issue for the 3 presidencies as well. The bilateral and multilateral negotiations (including the agreement with Norway) will also be on the forefront in the final months of 2010.

- Multi-annual management and recovery plans

The 3 presidencies will pay special attention to a number of multi-annual management and recovery plans, including the evaluation of the management plan for fisheries exploiting stocks of plaice and sole in the North Sea, among others.

- Simplification

The trio-presidency will pay a continuing attention to the process of a further simplification of the CFP legislation.